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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

May 2nd—8th, 1985
Volume 20, Number 17

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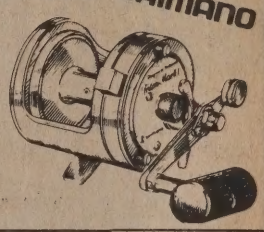

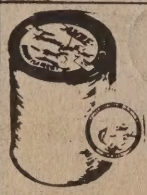

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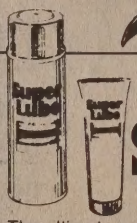

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 20, Number 17 May 2nd, 1985

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ABOUT THE COVER:

With the arrival of May, area anglers are anxiously awaiting news of the first hook and line weakfish taken from local waters. Check this week's fishing report section for the latest on the status of this spring favorite.

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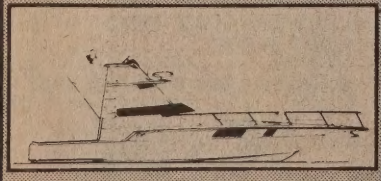
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REPORT ON ACID RAIN

A report listing key research questions to explore the links between acid rain and the potential effects on human health was released today by State Environmental Conservation Commissioner Henry G. Williams attending an intergovernmental conference on acid rain in Quebec.

The report, prepared by a panel of state, federl and university scientists, summarizes current knowledge on the links between acid rain and the indirect human health effects of trace contaminants such as lead and mercury.

Commissioner Williams said: "We have long been aware of the damage acid rain does to fish life in lakes in the Adirondacks and other areas of the United States. We have also suspected that acid rain has other far reaching adverse impacts on all aspects of our environment.

"Now, these distinguished scientists are leading the way into a new and critical area of study—the link between acid rain and human health. The links are complex, and there is much research work to be done.

"But the seriousness of their proposed study agenda reinforces the need to attack the causes of acid rain on a national and international level—not only to do more research, but to take legislative action as we have done in New York to curb sulfur and nitrogen emissions from industrial and utility smokestacks."

Williams spoke today at the conference sponsored by New England governors and eastern Canadian prmiers, the conference called to discuss the most recent research on acid rain consequences. The commissioner said he was pleased to release this report in Quebec as both the province and New York State have signed a five-year agreement to share all information on acid rain.

In his remarks to the New England and Canadian representatives Williams represented the Mid-Atlantic states and described the legislative and research initiatives being taken in New Jersey and Pennsylvania as well as New York. Urging the federal government to "assert the leadership needed and solve this environmental threat," Williams said:

"We as individual states, and as a region, are doing our share. Each state supports the idea of emission reductions to deal with this insidious form of pollution. We also believe additional research is needed to more fully understand the complexity of problems associated with acid deposition."

The report released by DEC lists 23 key questions needing study, many of which explore the links between possible human health problems and contaminants found in fish and in drinking water supplies, contaminants released by acidification from rain and snow.

Contaminants of main concern to the scientsts are mercury, lead, cadmium, and aluminum. The scientists also considered two other substances: asbestos and nitrates, but acknowledged that far less is known about their links to acidity and human health effects than the metals.

Some of the contaminants are emitted in the smoke from burning fossil fuels. Others are released when acidified rainwater and snow melt water percolate through soil and rock. Rainwater becomes acidified by sulphur and nitrogen emitted from industrial smokestacks and transported hundreds of miles before falling as rain and snow.

According to the report, the metals and other contaminants were chosen for study because "they may present a potential for human health hazard."

The scientists are concerned about these trace contaminants because of the "potential for acidic deposition to mobilize these substances and therebe increase human exposure."

"Virtually everyone in the general population has already accumulated some level of trace contaminants (such as mercury, lead and cadmium) in body tissues; further, there is nearly continuous exposure to these contaminants—from both natural and man-made sources," according to the scientists.

They recommend a research agenda including:

- Studies of trace contaminants in atmospheric deposition, including establishing a nationwide network to measure these trace substances in the air;
- Studies of water quality in rural areas throughout the United States. People in rural communities may be exposed to higher levels of contaminants if acidic water corrodes the pipes carrying drinking water. The levels of lead, cadmium and possibly asbestos need to be measured in these water supply systems. Individuals who rely on cisterns or shallow wells for drinking water may also be at risk.
- Studies of freshwater fish with the highest user consumption figures and the highest average mercury levels. These fish are among the species most likely to be affected by acidic deposition. The scientists said a national survey of mercury content in common native fish species in acid sensitive areas should be undertaken. The report also recommends examining how fish actually accumulate high levels of mercury in acid lakes.
- Aluminum toxicity to humans is of

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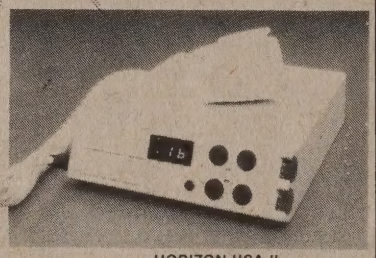

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growing concern. They recommended a study of aluminum in drinking water supplies, with particular emphasis on groundwater sources that could potentially be acidified.

The report is called "Acidic Deposition, Trace Contaminants, and their Indirect Human Health Effects: Research Needs." It summarizes a four day workshop sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency, DEC and Albany Medical College. Scientists from these agencies, as well as from universities in the United States, Canada and Sweden, and scientists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, New York State Department, the National Institutes of Health, Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Tennessee Valley Authority contributed to the report. The report, edited by staff from DEC and Albany Medical College, was prepared for the USEPA Environmental Research Laboratory in Corvallis, Oregon, as part of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program. It will help EPA develop an agenda for indirect human health effects research.

Copies of the report and further information are available from Scott Quinn, Division of Water, Room 317, DEC, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233.

CONGRESSMAN TOM DOWNEY ON FIRE ISLAND INLET DREDGING

The gray-green waters of the Great South Bay mix with the blue ocean waters of the Atlantic in a narrow waterway called the Fire Island Inlet. Beginning right around now the waterway gets crowded with boats coming and going between the bay and ocean. It's not the easiest of channels to negotiate at the best of times, but this season, after seven years of shifting sands, it could be downright dangerous.

The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for that particular stretch of water. I have been working with the Corps to arrange a dredging operation that would make the channel safe for boaters. We have all basically agreed on a plan to clear the shoaling—critical to the tens of thousands of boaters who use the Inlet every season. What must be settled on now is a timetable.

The Corps says it can wait. But waiting too long could leave boaters without a bucket to bail with; the Corps' timetable might leave the Inlet in its present unsafe condition throughout the boating season. Common sense says if the money and plan are agreed on, get on with the dredging before the season begins.

That's what has got to be done and that's what I told the local director of the Army Corps of Engineers when he and I inspected the Inlet aboard the Captree Queen II just last week. Joining us on that tour of the inlet were local fishermen and a representative of the New York Sport Fishing Federation—an organization of over 40,000 saltwater fishermen and

boaters.

This seven-year-old problem which has grown worse every season should be cleared up soon. For everyone who cares about our waterways and the folks who ply them, the sooner the better.

BASIC BOATING IN QUEENS

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-3 is giving a three-week Basic Boating Course in Howard Beach, Queens at the Old Mill Yacht Club, at 7:30PM beginning on May 15, 1985. Subjects taught will include trailering, boat handling, legal requirements and rules of the road. There will be a minimal charge for books. For information and registration, call Jim Schug FSO-PE, evenings at (718) 776-8465.

BAY SHORE MAKO TOURNEY SET FOR JUNE 29TH-30TH

The Bay Shore Tuna Club is pleased to again invite all fishing clubs and anglers to participate in the Mako Tournament to be held at Bay Shore on June 29th and 30th. Entries to be limited to 150 boats, first come, first served. Only one 3-boat team per club will be allowed. Each entry must have a VHF/FM Channel 72.

As in last year's tournament, predesignated club teams will be competing for club prizes and all anglers may compete for individual prizes.

Mooring facilities at the Bay shore Marina will be made available without cost to tournament participants. Due to limited dock space, berths will be assgined on a first come—first served basis.

This year's entry fee will be $150 per boat. There will be no angler fees, but each boat must list all anglers on application. Each boat entered will receive bait and chum in the amount of 100 pounds per day to be supplied in the following manner: 2 regular cans chum, 1 slab of bunker and 10 lbs. frozen butterfish or mackerel.

Maximum bait and chum on boat each day is not to exceed 200 pounds and if any entrant desires to order any additional bait or chum than as provided and included in the entry fee, it will be available on dock. Prices for additional bait and chum will be at prevailing rates payable on delivery.

A meeting of anglers will be held on Friday night, June 28 at Capt. Bill's Anchorage, Ocean Avenue, Bay Shore, New York at 8PM sharp. At this time, the boat numbers, tournament badges and literature will be distributed. General conduct and questions concerning the tournament and rules will be answered and explained at this time.

There will also be $1,000 cash given away in early entry drawings. To be eligible for the $700 drawing (1st drawing), your entry fee and application must be received and accepted by the Bay Shore Tuna Club by 5PM, May 15, 1985. Drawing will be held Friday night at the captains meeting, rain or shine. To be eligible for the $300 drawing (2nd drawing), entry fee

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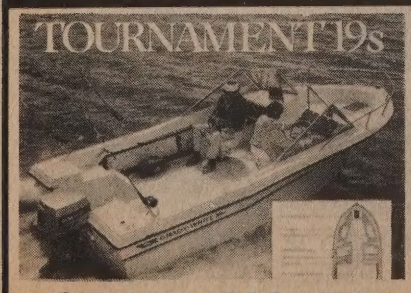

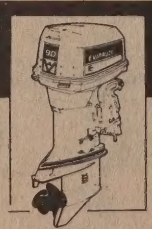

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and application must be received and accepted by the Bay Shore Tuna Club by 5PM, May 15, 1985. Early entry accepted fishing vessel **must** turn in second-day angler card on Sunday (from vessel) no sooner than one-half hour prior to official start of that day's fishing and depart Bay Shore Marina no later than one hour after the official start. This second drawing will be at Bay Shore Marina at 5PM.

In the event the second day's fishing is weathered out, all early entry accepted applicants will be eligible for second drawing. Drawing will be held within one hour after cancellation of second day fishing. Call 665-0037 for more info.

SPECIAL ADOLESCENTS LEARN ABOUT OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Gateway National Recreation Area's resources of marsh, beach and grasslands will provide an outdoor classroom for the New York State Marine Education Association's Second Annual "Marine Education Conference for Special Adolescents." The one-day conference will be held on Friday, May 3, 1985 at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn for over 250 learning disabled, hearing impaired, visually impaired and physically disabled adolescents. Workshops planned by NYSMEA will include collecting marine specimens, exploring the salt marsh, fish printing, seafood sampling and nature photography.

For further information about the conference and/or about the activities of the New York State Marine Education Association, call Joseph M. Varon, conference chairperson at (212) 369-0700 during the day or (718) 347-7245 evenings.

DOCUMENTATION PROPOSAL WOULD LIMIT QUALIFYING BOATS

The Coast Guard has published a proposed rule that would change measurements for determining tonnage. Vessels measuring five net tons qualify for documentation. The vast majority of marine lenders require documentation to secure their liens on boats which meet the five ton requirement, so it's likely the proposal would have a major effect on credit availabilities on buyers in this market segment.

Under the new proposal, a sailing vessel's tonnage would be only 75 percent of the presently calculated tonnage. This is because the depth would have to be measured differently. Presently, a skin-covered keel is included, but the new proposal specifies: "In cases where the keel of a vessel designed for sailing is covered by the skin, the depth for calculating purposes is limited to 75 percent of the overall depth."

This means that vessels under the present method should measure at least 6.7 tons to qualify for documentation. For vessels other than sailboats, the tonnage would be reduced by about four percent. Under current computations, recreational

sailboats of approximately 26 feet and up and powerboats 27 to 28 feet and up meet the five ton requirement for documentation. Preliminary calculations indicate the proposal would raise the qualifying lengths to 28 to 29 feet for power vessels, and perhaps as high as 35 feet for sailboats.

Those desiring to comment on the proposal should write Commandant (G-CMC/21) (CGO 83-070), U.S. Coast Guard, Washington, DC 20593. The comment period ends May 17th.

1985 FENWICK TACKLE BOX AND OLD PAL FISHING ACCESSORIES CATALOG

All of the Fenwick tackle boxes for 1985 are in this new catalog and so are all of the Old Pal fishing accessories. Seats, minnow buckets, fishing outfits for kids and a lot more are described and it makes for good reading. Available from Molded Products Division, Woodstream Corporation, Front and Locust Sts., Lititz, PA 17543, at $1 postpaid.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS VS SOUTH SHORE ANGLERS

In a flounder fish-off aboard the Atlantic which sails out of Freeport, on April 14th, the Atlantis Anglers made a clean sweep taking first, second and third place. Howie Sternberg and Allan Zavetsky tied for first and second with fish of 1 lb. 5 oz. Third place honors went to Ashley Fulton with a 1 lb. 1 oz. flounder.

The Atlantis Anglers are looking to expand its membership. Contact Hal Eisenbaum, (516) 678-4352.

LOWER BAY ANGLERS HOLD OPEN HOUSE AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Lower Bay Anglers will hold an open house and membership drive on Monday, May 13th at 7:30PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall on 60th Street between 8th and 9th Avenues in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. A special presentation will be made by Captain Andy Nazzarola of the party boat "Tampa" which operates out of Sheepshead Bay. As a part of this presentation video tape movies of recent tuna trips aboard the Tampa will be shown. A 16mm movie will also be shown if there is sufficient time.

The Lower Bay Anglers is a group of local sportsmen. The club runs several fishing trips each year at the club's expense. In addition, members get together frequently to fish the local waters. The club has also participated in an annual "Take A Kid Fishing" day sponsored by Value Fare Car Service, a local Bay Ridge business.

The club welcomes all interested fishermen, whether they be novices or experts. Meetings are held the second Monday evening of each month at the aforementioned Knights of Columbus Hall. Additional information on trips, dues, types of memberships, etc., will be available at the meeting.

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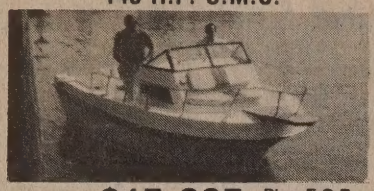

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WELLCRAFT V-20 FISHERMAN

by Pete Barrett

Back in 1955 Wellcraft was a small, regional boat builder noted for producing hard-working boats that were simple and clean in design and function. Today the company has expanded to become one of the largest manufacturers of recreational boating and fishing boats; yet they haven't lost sight of the basic needs of fishermen for well-thought-out fishing machines and are still known for producing some of the most functional boats in the industry.

The V-20 Fisherman is a good example. Wellcraft has done a remarkable job of designing in all the needed fishing features yet the skiff looks slick and clean, not cluttered with options piled into the wrong places, hatches stuck into every corner, nor cramped deck space.

I've always admired fishing boats that were roomy and easy to fish out of. Things like wide walkaround spaces along the console, huge hatches, wide deck spaces and lots of usable transom space have always identified boats that were truly meant to be fished out of. The Wellcraft has all these attributes.

The V-20 is a good choice for a fisherman who needs a boat large enough for inshore action with blues and weakfish, who fishes wrecks for blacks and sea bass, who runs large bays or who spends a lot of time fishing the smaller bays for fluke, flounder and small blues. At just over 2000 pounds total weight with engine and fuel, the V-20 is trailerable by most mid-sized cars and small trucks so she's a "go anywhere" boat.

The hull is a step vee design which provides lift to raise most of the hull out of the water while running at speed. This makes for great fuel economy. At rest while drifting, the hull is stable and not tippy. The deadrise is 20 degrees; enough of a vee to slice through the heavy chop yet still shallow enough to allow fishing in shoal water.

The hull flares dramatically. The result is a wide foredeck that adds to the fishing room up on the boat nd the flared hull throws spray out and away from the crew.

There are two very large hatches built into the bow deck. One is a vee shaped locker for dry storage of life jackets, extra lines, foul weather gear, etc.; the other is a large fish box with insulation foamed in place around it. The box drains overboard and is dry when the boat is at rest at dockside. Both hatches have molded lips that will keep them dry even while spraying with a hose to clean the boat after a hard day's fishing.

The console is, for me, about perfect in size. A 20 footer will probably never be rigged with loads of electronics, so you don't need a huge console to hold a lot of stuff you'll

never put on it anyhow. There is plenty of space for VHF, CB, graph recorder, temperature gauge and one of the new small sized Lorans like the Si-Tex EZ-7 or Apelco 600.

Walkaround room is great. The base of the console flares out to mount 6 rod holders, then angles in so the upper part of the console is narrower than the base. This gives you plenty of hip room to walk by from stern to bow: very nice.

The seat on the front of the console is hinged to get into the built-in cooler. Just above the seat is an optional tackle storage box with pull out shelves to hold rigs, lures and terminal gear.

Dual helm chairs come standard. By now most readers know my opinion of helm chairs: they are great for boaters, but they get in the way of fishing. A small boat type seat would be a better choice and add to the comfort and storage of the boat. A small rocket launcher would give you storage for more rods, more tackle and rigs, plus provide space for a cooler beneath the frame of this launcher seat.

Additional rod storage comes from teak racks built along the gun'ls. If you needed even more storage, store bought racks would fit nicely on front of the transom.

The aft deck space is wide and roomy. The console is positioned forward enough so the aft deck is not crowded. Plenty of room here for two anglers to fish.

Just ahead of the splash well is a live well with a very wide hatch opening. You could use this for added fish storage. At either side of the splash well you'll find small insulated boxes suitable for storing baits, rigs, small tackle items and lures.

The V-20 is also available in a Sea Drive version that differs slightly from the outboard model just described. There is actually even more room aft since the splash well is eliminated. A stern bulkhead has built-in storage boxes.

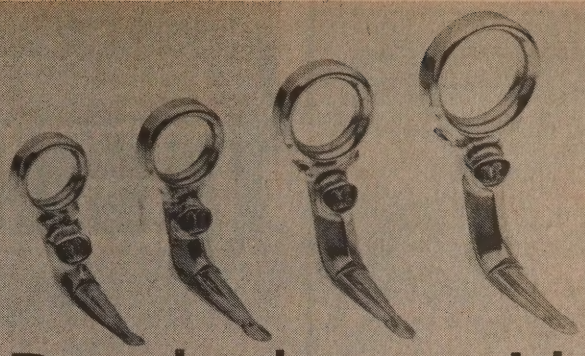
Workmanship is good everywhere you look. Peer into the small bilge space and the wiring looks neat and harnessed. The underside of the console is equally neat and well executed. Choice of hardware is top-notch—no inexensive stuff on the Wellcraft. The rub rail is rubber with a rope center.

The overall impression of the boat is very nice. It is roomy, soft and dry riding, fuel efficient and should give excellent service for many, many years.

SPECIFICATIONS

Length	20'6"
Beam	8'
Draft	18"
Maximum Horsepower	200
Dry Weight	1920 pounds
Fuel Capacity	60 gallons

Manufactured by: Wellcraft Marine Corp., 8151 Bradenton Rd., Sarasota, Florida 33580, (813) 753-7811.



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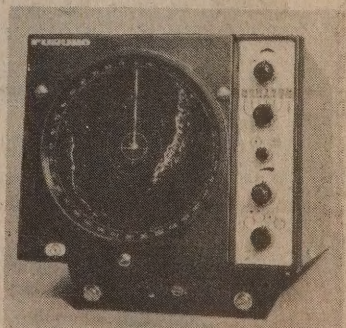

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THE TACKLE DOCTOR

by Russ Wilson

Dear Doc,

Sometime back, I remember reading about a "special hook" that is used strictly for blackfish (tautog). As I recall, the hook was painted or coated black and had a very short barb. It also was made with a round bend much like the Aberdeen style that is seen used by freshwater fishermen who work snag-infested areas.

What I'd like to know is if this is the only hook that can be used for blackfish and if so, what sizes do they find most practical for average size blackfish, which in my area is somewhere around 1 to 2 pounds.

Also, what's the best way to rig for blackfish? I generally use a three way swivel, connecting link for the sinker and a 12 inch leader for my hook. I seem to lose a lot of rigs and I also miss more hits than I feel I should. Can you suggest a solution.?

Jose Ferendez

Dear Jose,

The standard blackfish hook, and one that is used by most of the regulars at bottom fishing along the northeast, is the Virginia style hook. It is as you describe—a black hook with a very short barb and a full round bend. Probably more blackfish have been caught with this style hook than any other model and its popularity is not likely to diminish because of its effectiveness.

We do use a different type hook for blackfish. When using green crabs we often go with a regular beak style 1/0 or 2/0 short shank hook in the gold or bronze finish. Due to the wide bend of this particular model hook, we can insert the barb through one claw hole and bring it back through another. By using this method of attaching the green crabs we usually hook more of the fish that bite than we would with a Virginia style hook.

If you fish with fiddler crab or sand bugs, I suggest you stick with the Virginia hook or the Pacific Bass style hook.

* * *

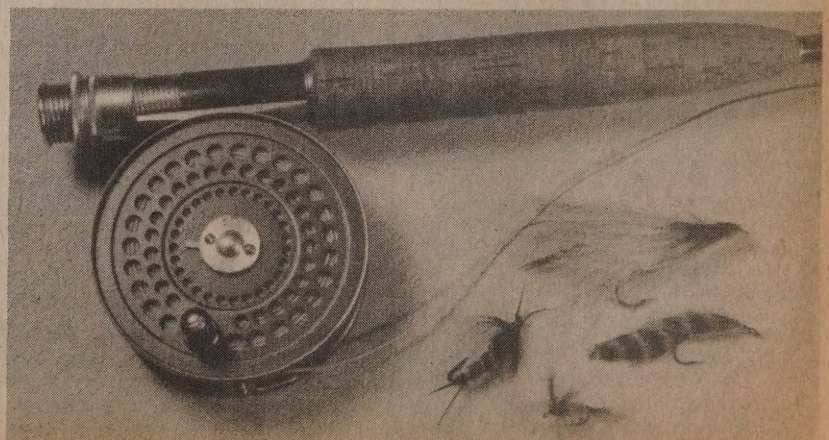
Dear Doc,

Why do so many writers recommend a variety of baits for one kind of fish? What I refer to is the recent winter flounder season when most writers (yourself included) said anyone who hoped to catch flounder should bring several different baits and then use the one that produced the largest number of fish. If I follow this advice I'd be buying sand worms, blood worms, clams, mussels and then I'd have to visit the local supermarket for some canned corn and a box of rice. Seems a bit much when I only want to catch a few flounder for an evening meal.

Is it really all that important to have a variety of baits when I already know what kind of fish I am going to try to catch? *Richard Acquinto.*

Dear Richard,

I am glad you include my name among those who have recommended buying a variety of bait before heading for a local fishing hole. It is sound advice. You just don't know beforehand what particular food a fish is going to show interest in on one specific day. With winter flounder it is a pro-



Any good collection of flies should include a selection of streamers.

ven fact that worms will get results on one tide and clam strips or blood worms will do the job on the next change of tide. Why take a chance on not catching fish when you can put the odds in your favor by bringing a little more bait, but of a different kind.

We've seen it work far too often to ignore the facts. In fact, we always bring sand and blood worms when seeking flounder and I would feel positively naked without a half dozen fresh clams in the bait bucket when I'm attempting to separate those winter flatfish from their watery home.

I might skip the canned corn and rice, but would not think of fishing for flounder without enough mussels to provide a chum slick and some hook baits. Flounder do feed heavily upon worms but just like you or I they want a change of menu every so often and that's why it pays to bring a variety of baits. I like steak, but would not want to eat steak everyday for the rest of my life and even though flounder feed primarily upon worms or clam, I doubt they could make it without something different every once in awhile.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I am a 15-year-old non-stop fisherman just getting started at fly fishing. I've fly fished for trout in streams and rivers, but what I would like to know is how to use a dry fly or nymph on a pond. *Robert Gilberto*

Dear Robert,

I don't know what kind of fly fishing equipment you have, but assume you have gone through the mechanics of matching rod to to line and leader to line. Hope I am correct, for if you have not matched your outfit you will have trouble getting those long casts that are often necessary when fishing ponds and small lakes from the shore or when wading the shallows.

You might purchase a couple sinking leaders. These are marketed at the retail level (and are available at many tackle shops and sporting goods outlets throughout the northeast) and at a reasonable cost. These sinking leaders will help you present a dry fly with no surface commotion, which is very important when fishing a flat calm lake or pond. When using nymphs you can still go with the sinking leader, but it is not as critical as when fishing a fly on the surface or in the surface film.

I'd probably go with a dark bi-visible or some pattern that has a lot of hackle to keep the fly floating higher on the surface for a longer period of time. The black gnat is a popular pattern and has accounted for many a fresh stocked rainbow or brown trout. Other fly patterns worth carrying include the Light Cahill, Royal Coachman, Hendrickson, Mosquito and other patterns which closely imitate the prevailing insect life.

Hope we've been of some assistance and good luck in your fly fishing in the upcoming season.

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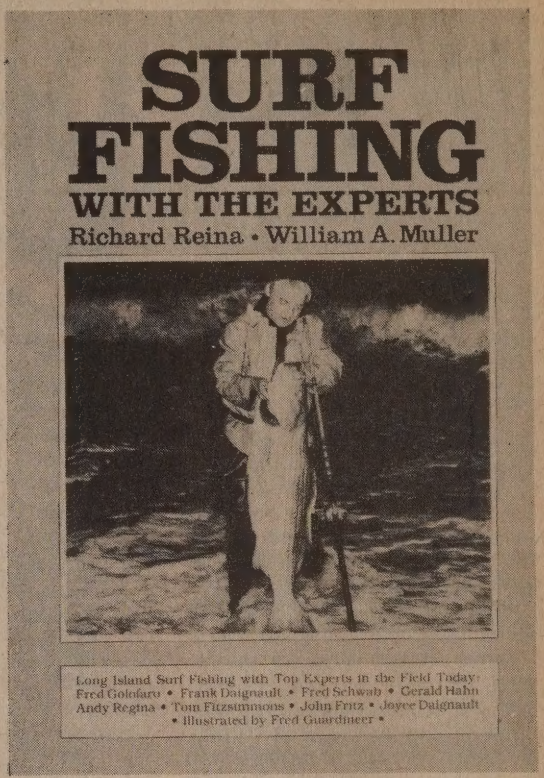
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LING: EVERYONE'S FISH

by Matt Ahern

This prolific member of the cod family claims a well deserved reputation among New York Bight sinker bouncers.

For as far back as I can remember, ling have been called everyone's fish, the fish to be enjoyed alike by beginner and veteran.

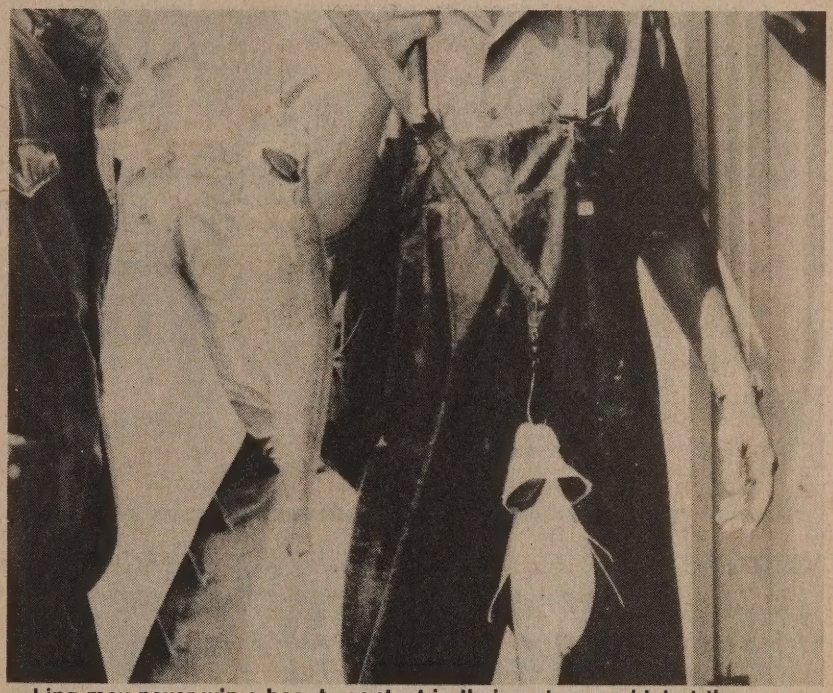
Despite the pressures put upon them by commercial and recreational fishermen, ling are still a plentiful fish for sinker bouncers in the New York Bight. When conditions are right, one may expect to go out there and fill the bucket with little effort.

I have always had a warm spot in my fishing heart for ling, for they were the first party boat fish I caught in the long, long ago. (I can recall that day as if it were only yesterday.) This was several years before the Great Depression set in, and it was during those days when ling climbed to the height of their popularity. Depression era fishermen went ling fishing as often as possible, especially in springtime. For a party boat fare of two dollars, these fishermen knew they could fill sacks and butter tubs to overflowing with delicious-tasting ling. Some of these fishermen sold their ling either from the boat or in their neighborhoods (I know, I did so myself many, many times), but most fellows shared their catch with less fortunate neighbors. (I did this, too, for in those sad times it was the unwritten law to help one another as much and as often as possible—that's one reason we pulled through the way we did.)

Daily catches of 80 to 100 ling per fisherman were common, especially aorund the old Ambrose Lightship. Fair weather or foul, ling were there; never disappointing, always willing to accept the baited hook. To this day, these grounds still produce ling. Truly, they are every man's fish, for no one goes home fishless when ling are around.

We all know habit and tradition die hard, and because of this, through the years ling have become the subject of many disparaging remarks. Undeserved names such as "sewer trout," "Coney Island trout," and "garbage guts" are still heard from time to time. In fact, many contemporary fishermen still hold ling in disrepute and consider them but one step above eels.

As far as I'm concerned, this is entirely unfair to the poor ling. I've found that it is usually the poorly informed fisherman who does this. Ling are definitely not scavengers, as so many claim. Their main diet consists of other fish, crabs, clams, shrimp, and lobsters, all of which put ling in a far different class than scavenger.



Ling may never win a beauty contest in their watery world, but they are fun to catch.

I'm quite certain that the cause for these unfair remarks is usually brought about by fishermen who catch ling during July and August and then carelessly allow them to lie unprocted from the blazing sun. Any fish so treated is guaranteed to quickly become a soft, smelly mess, unfit for human consumption. It isn't the poor ling's fault, of course, but the poor guy suffers because of someone's carelessness.

Then there is the fisherman who has heard all these remarks, mulls them over, and then claims he wouldn't be caught dead while ling fishing. It is my hope that such fishermen will put their prejudice aside and go ling fishing this spring. I'm certain these fishermen will be of different mind at day's end.

All members of the cod family are prolific spawners, and the ling is no exception. A mama ling can easily lay as many as two million eggs without batting her fins. Apparently spawning occurs from midsummer to early fall in the deeper, cooler offshore areas, which is probably why few ling are caught in the New York Bight during late August and September when fishing in their usual haunts. Ling fanatics look for action in offshore residences, at this time.

When mentioning the spawning season, I used the word "apparently." This is because some authorities claim ling spawn during spring. Maybe so. But I do know that when Artie Leidecker and I fish the Cholera Bank "high spots" in July for sea bass, we often load up on ling filled with spawn. Perhaps our bait loving friend needs a more up-to-date study.

Ling range throughout the deep water of the Gulf of Maine, out to, and including, the southern sweep of the Grand Bank, thence as far south as Delaware and Maryland, with the largest concentrations being off Long Island's south shore. The entire coast of New Jersey is fertile ling ground, especially north of Long Branch and into the New York Bight.

Many party boats from these areas take tons of ling in season. I do not mistake when I say that during

(Continued on next page.)

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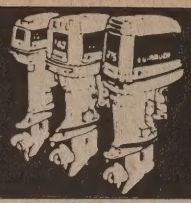

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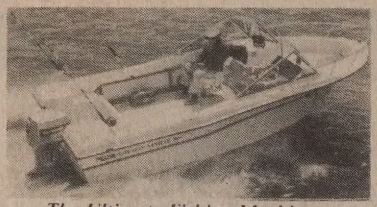

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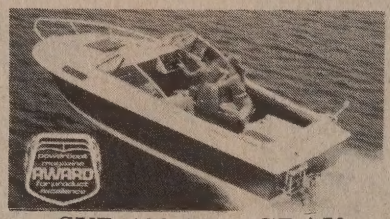

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springtime, ling are the mainstay of many party boat skippers. I've known a few who have, on occasion, given up the mackerel season in order to satisfy their patrons. I guess one might say, there's something to this ling fishing many of us don't know.

Many fishermen who have caught ling in the normally deep water in which they live liken them to an old boot as they reel them up. (Haven't you heard the same thing about cod? Sure you have; but I've yet to see one of these "old-boot" fishermen take time out to retell the latest story he heard while reeling in that "boot.") But the simple reason why ling act like that old boot isn't because they don't have any spunk. The reason is because in order to reach ling in those deep places, it is necessary to use heavy sinkers—sometimes as much as 14 to 16 ounces. It would probably be like a human trying to swim carrying a 100 pound lead weight. But let those same "old boot" fishermen catch ling off Sandy Hook's Cedars in early May and I guarantee they will soon change their minds. This is an inshore shallow water area and ling put up quite a scrap when compared to those caught farther offshore.

Ling are usually caught on mud and/or sand bottom, rock banks, and around sunken wrecks, in water ranging from 30 to 90 feet in depth—sometimes deeper, as around the Mud Hole. They also seem to share the same curiosity streak as sea bass: lobstermen often find both in their baitless pots.

Many of the popular local wrecks, such as the Stone Barge, Coal Barge, Steel and C.O.D. wrecks, hold a large population of ling in May and June. I recall fishing the C.O.D. wreck one June day with Captain Tom Griffenberg of the Survivor II out of Island Park when it was actually impossible to catch sea bass because the ling beat them to the bait every time. Of those wrecks mentioned, most will produce ling until warm water drives them off—say the end of June.

Rigging for ling is simplicity itself, for no elaborate tackle is required. The usual medium-weight boat rod (conventional) used for deep water porgy and sea bass fishing will do the trick. Fill a conventional reel with at least 150 yards of 20 pound test good quality monofilament line, and you're in business. Medium-weight spinning gear will do the trick, too; but in my estimation, any spinning gear is out of place on a party boat. (I'm from the old school, so please don't hold this against me.)

I find a 3/0 or 4/0 regular shanked Sproat hook to be best for all ling fishing. It isn't necessary to use those long shanked Kirby and Carlisle hooks some fellows use. The ling has no dangerous teeth for fishermen to contend with, and where a lighter short shanked hook may be best for cagey fish, the ling, I believe, will attack the anchor if there's bait on it. This lighter, short shanked hook business is another part of my old-

school fishing.

When fishing open bottom, some fishermen tie two hooks tandem style two inches above the sinker and let it go at that. I believe it is best, though, to tie in a third hook about three feet above the sinker. Because ling and cod are family members, it is not unusual for each to swim in the same areas. And I'll tell you, many a ling fisherman who has recognized this fact and put it to use, has captured more than one pool. And don't forget, there is always an excellent opportunity to collect a few nice whiting from time to time.

Ling will accept a variety of bait. I don't think there is anything that swims which would not make a suitable offering. Skimmer clam is hard to beat and is most often used during the daytime. At night, the dark hours seem to add extra zest to ling hunger, for as difficult as it may seem to the uninitiated, our homely friend bites even better than. They are much like whiting and cod in this respect. I remember some years ago on one particular spring night when a bunch of us die-hard codfishermen who had heard rumors of big cod on the Ambrose Lightship Ridge being taken at night were trounced to a fare-the-well. All our well laid plans went down the well-known drain and ling and more ling took over. Ah, me!

If you're interested in trying this type of ling fishing, you'll find that strips of squid make superior bait. And don't forget to use squid during June on the wrecks, for this is when the vanguard of big fluke begin moving inshore. A word to the wise is sufficient!

As noted before, ling are soft-fleshed, meaning they won't keep in good condition during hot weather unless certain precautions are taken. They should be protected from the sun as much as possible, and gutted as the opportunity presents itself—certainly as soon as the fishing day is over—and washed thoroughly in saltwater. (Avoid fresh water for this job! Your fish will soften if you use tap water.) It is best to place ling in a cotton or burlap bag—and keep it wet! Shun plastic bags as these have a tendency to retain heat. Cotton and burlap bags "breathe," and this is what keeps the fish cool.

Ling have tasty meat; white and flaky, much like cod. It also freezes well (as do all bottom feeding fish), which means that two or three ling trips will supply one's family with months of delicious eating. Large ling can be filleted and the smaller ones pan fried to mouth watering goodness. A method we use is to brush a ling fillet with either mayonnaise or sour cream and then dip into flavored bread crumbs. Delicious!

So, to the uninitiated fisherman, try ling fishing soon. Not only will you be glad you did, you'll discover why the ling is every man's fish—and also why that old-time fisherman was so eager to part with his hard-earned Depression Day dollars.

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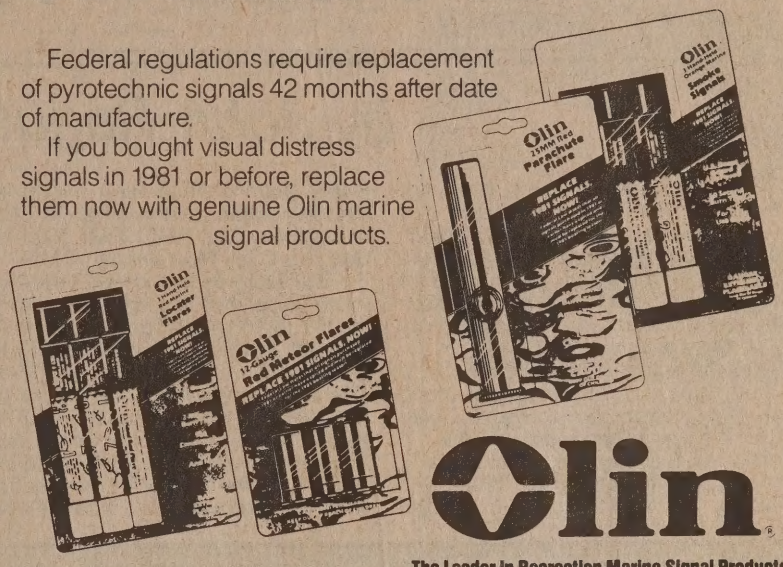

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ATLANTIC WRECK SERIES:

THE VARANGER (28 MILE WRECK)

by John Raguso

Many Fisherman readers may not recognize the official name of this huge 9305 ton Norwegian oil tanker, but mention the 28 Mile Wreck and visions of king sized cod, waves of school bluefin tuna and pods of tail-walking white marlin will assuredly come to mind.

The Varanger was one of the first Allied ships sent to the bottom along our New Jersey/Long Island Coast after the commencement of WW II hostilities, and she was attacked early the morning of January 25, 1942. This sinking, actually the sixth in United States waters since Axis submarine warfare began off the Atlantic Coast on January 14, 1942, took place off Sea Isle City, New Jersey, where all the survivors were landed. Those unlucky ships that preceded the Varanger to their watery graves were the Norness (south of Montauk Point), the Coimbra (south of Shinnecock Inlet), The City of Atlanta and Ciltvaira (off the North Carolina coast) and the Allan Jackson. What was remarkable about the Varanger's misfortune was that the entire crew of 41 was rescued with no fatalities. This was no small feat when you consider the 35 degree water temperatures that usually predominate during late January, the fact that rescue boats didn't arrive at the scene for 4½ hours after the Varanger went down and that this towering vessel foundered only 15 minutes after the first of three torpedoes struck.

According to a New York Times story, although the official Navy announcement was not specific on the point, there was a strong possibility that more than one German U-boat may have taken part in this attack. Interviews with survivors were not permitted by either the U.S. Navy or Norwegian merchant marine officials, but a Sea Isle City doctor who treated several of the crewmen for exposure and oil toxemia said that the men to whom he talked were convinced that there were at least two submarines involved in the attack.

An irony of the Varanger's sinking by Axis submarines was that the forty-one survivors, most of them Norwegian nationals, were picked up by two 30-foot fishing boats manned by Italian-American captains. Dewy Monchetti, master of the first vessel to spot the survivors, told reporters how he had seen the flash of the ship's explosion as he set out to sea shortly after 3AM, but ignored it because he "did not think much about it." He sailed his boat, the San Gennaro, out 22 miles to the cod fishing grounds, paying out five tubs of hook-strung line in the meantime. At 7:30AM, Captain Monchetti and his crew were pulling in the lines when the Varanger's survivors caught up to them, about 21 miles offshore.

Two lifeboats, one equipped with a motor, and both with their sails up, came into view, with the motorized boat towing the other. Captain Monchetti did not suspect that he was about to become the rescuer of torpedoed mariners. He just thought that they were men out too far for the limited size of their craft. As the boats drew nearer to the San Gennaro and he heard the hoarse shouts of the stricken crew, he could see by their physical state that these "poor devils" were survivors of a maritime disaster.

According to a New York Times

THE VARANGER — 28 Mile Wreck — Vital Statistics

Date Sunk: January 25, 1942
Length: Unknown
Beam: Unknown
Weight: 9,305 gross tons
Hull Construction: Steel
Depth of Water: 126 feet
Depth Over Wreck: 76 feet
Lat/Lon Position: 39-00-23 N/74-04-57 W
Loran C Position: 26828.3/42805.0

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Port	Distance (Nautical Miles)	Heading (Magnetic) To	From
Barnegat Inlet	45.0	191°	011°
Beach Haven Inlet	32.0	175°	355°
Little Egg Inlet	30.0	172°	352°
Absecon Inlet	27.4	157°	337°
Great Egg Inlet	28.0	141°	321°
Townsend Inlet	30.7	113°	293°
Cape May Inlet	36.6	093°	273°

report, Captain Monchetti stated that, "They were so smeared up with oil that on some of them all you could see was the whites of their eyes. Some were lying in the bottom of the boat, and one or two looked like they were hurt bad." The crew of the San Gennaro took the injured men aboard, then tossed a line to the lead boat, making flank speed for Townsend Inlet and shore. On the way in, they overtook the Eileen, captained by Dominick Constantino, and gave him one of the lifeboats to pull in so they could make better time. The rescue boats finally landed about 9:30AM and were immediately taken in charge by the Coast Guard. The Varanger's crew was escorted to the local Coast Guard station and was kept incommunicado throughout the day and evening. A naval officer from Philadelphia came to Sea Isle City to get their story, and it was after this that the official naval report confirmed the exact details of the sinking.

The Varanger was a motor vessel/tanker of 9305 gross tons, built in 1925 in Amsterdam. She was carrying a heavy cargo of fuel oil, part of which had been picked up in Africa and the remainder in the West Indies. She was due to put into New York Harbor at noon on January 25, 1942, but was stopped nine hours short of her destination.

There was evidence of the Varanger's cargo on the faces and bodies of all her surviving crew. Dr. Alexander Stuart, the physician who treated them, said that they were coated so thickly with the heavy oil that he had to give them all kerosene baths. In a tribute to the tanker's crew, the doctor stated that they were a tough gang and could take the ordeal of the sinking.

A spokesman for the fourth naval district in Philadelphia, who confirmed the sinking, described the U-boat attack as follows:

"The ship was struck at 3:10 AM by a torpedo amidship on the port side. The force of the explosion knocked the radio room and a four inch gun overboard (explaining why the Varanger could not send a May-Day). Seven minutes later the ship was struck by a second torpedo. Five minutes later a third torpedo struck. The Varanger sank immediately after the third torpedo." The Navy spokesman who said that the crew included two Americans, declared that apparently two submarines were engaged in the attack, but said that this report had not been wholly confirmed. It is interesting to note that as the Varanger proceeded north along the Jersey coast to New York Harbor, she was attacked from the port beam, indicating that at least one of the U-boats was inshore of the 28 mile mark where the tanker went down.

Back on shore, the explosion of the torpedoes ripping into the Varanger's side awakened many residents and rattled numerous windows in Sea Isle City and was heard as far away as Atlantic City. The San Gennaro, which played the leading part in the rescue operation, was viewed by many curious townsmen after it tied up at the Townsend Inlet dock. The typical drab gray coloration of the fishing vessel was offset by big splotches of black oil on deck, indicating where the survivors had lain.

As a counterpoint to the tragedy of the Varanger's sinking, UPI issued an interesting news release dated 3/7/42 regarding game fish off the Atlantic Seaboard. According to Bryan Travis of Cape Charles, VA., a chief boatswain's mate in the Coast Guard who also held many saltwater fishing records at that time, "Game fish off the Atlantic Coast have mostly disappeared and won't be back until the war ends. Torpedo and shell-fire explosions have run the fish away. Some knew it was coming. They were warned by their fleeing brothers who had already been under fire. They can sense danger, locate food and plot the future. When the first torpedo exploded off the coast it probably killed every living thing within a quarter mile area and a like distance in depth. It may be years before another fish will enter that area."

There's a message here for all you sports-minded anglers the next time you release your catch. Before you place the tag and clip the leader, ask your grateful quarry if it has any hot stock tips or knows who's going to win the fifth race at Belmont. Since these fish can alledgedly "predict the future," who knows what resonse you'll get!

Now let's get back to the serious stuff. The Varanger's resting spot along the 20 fathom curve makes it an ideal stopover point for many of the pelagic species on their northward migrations. Although I have never personally fished the 28 Mile Wreck, some New Jersey anglers I've questioned indicated that this wreck is a good spot for bluefish during the spring, summer and fall; codfish all year round; school tuna, bonito and skipjack during late summer and early fall; white marlin under favorable water temperatures and an occasional shark during their northward migration in early summer.

The 28-Mile Wreck is so named due to its approximate distance from Great Egg, Absecon and Brigantine Inlets. The Varanger's location was originally confirmed by the USCG Cutter Gentian, reportedly being clear to 76' above the wreck. Divers have observed the hull and have described it to be in good condition, with its fuel storage tanks opened up. You should expect to get a sharp, clear image in your recording depthsounder when attempting to locate this wreck.

The last section includes a summary of the Varanger's vital data. Next week, we'll discuss one of the "hottest" wrecks on the East Coast that's not even a legitimate shipwreck, but the remains of a U.S. Air Force radar installation: Texas Tower #4.

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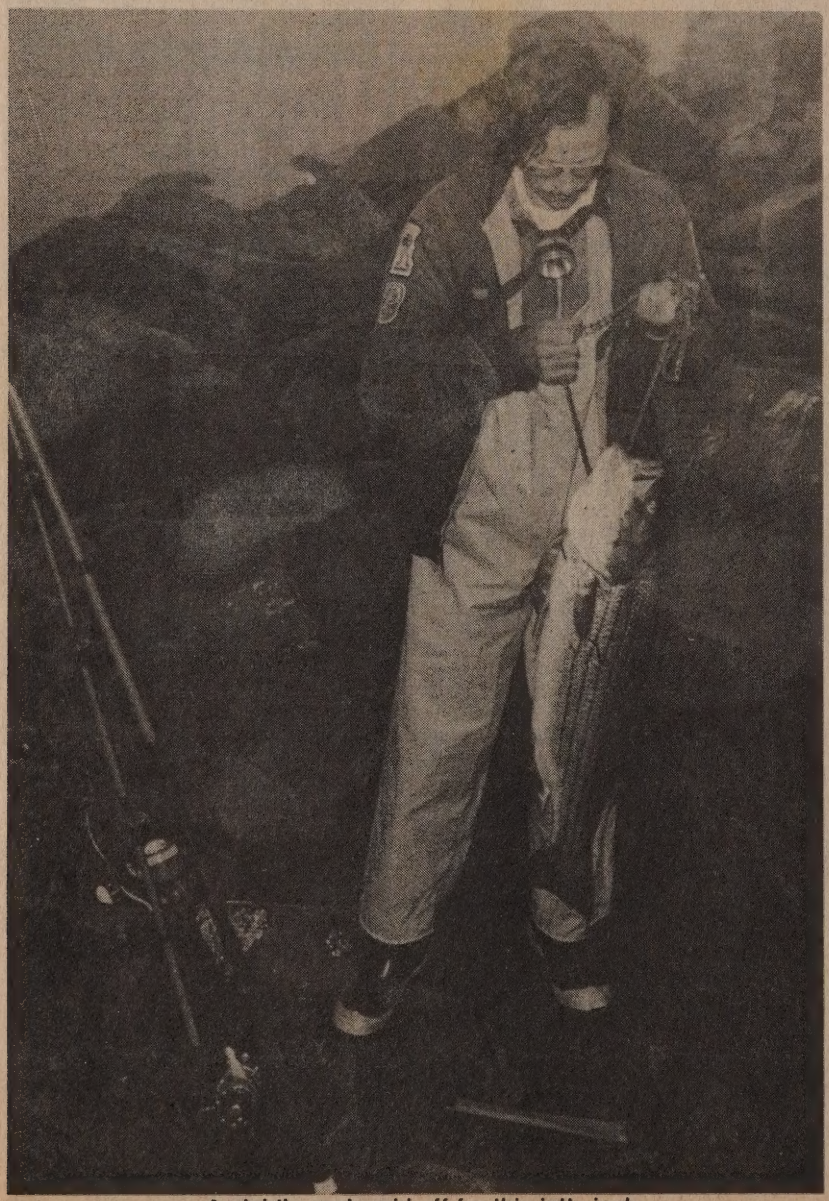
ROCKPILE STRIPERS

by Noah Michaels

Framing Jones Inlet's eastern border, the West End jetty is a classic striper rockpile.

The small fish almost made it to the safety of the looming rocks when a large fish inhaled it. In a blink of an eye the large fish realized something was wrong, as the plug's sharp hooks bit into its jaw.

After a couple of good strong runs for freedom, the fish was worked closer to the jetty. The sweep of the waves from right to left were now the primary concern of the angler since many a fish has won its freedom with the help of the waves and rocks. Once in close, the beam from the flashlight confirmed the original estimate of the size of the fish. With the light held between my teeth and the long handle gaff awkwardly held under one arm, I slowly worked down to a lower rock. As I moved, one eye was on the lookout for any large waves, the other on the bass now on its side with the waves pushing and pulling at it. The practiced dance of all surf fishermen began. Always moving with the water, giving line with the rod on each receding wave, and then attempting to horse and dump the fish behind a rock as the next wave lifted and pushed it closer. Finally, if all goes well, the fish can be gaffed with an upward pull. I slipped the rod into the rocks so both hands could be used to lift the fish completely out of the water onto a flat rock safe from the waves.



A night's work paid off for this jetty jock

I always get a kick out of people who tell me they don't have the patience to sit around fishing. Funny, between the constant casting and jumping around from rock to rock, jetty fishing is anything but sedentary. Especially West End 2 when you include the long hike out and back. This finger of rocks pointing out into the Atlantic on the east side of Jones Inlet, is one of the best bass jetties around. I have no trouble writing about this spot as everyone knows where it is and that it produces large bass. But most guys give up fishing there after one or two fruitless trips. Its wet slippery top, with its rocks tilting every which way give some second thoughts, and with good reasons. It takes a bass fisherman with a bit of experience under his surf belt to successfully tackle this set of rocks.

I'd be remiss if I didn't give a quick rundown on some do's and don'ts. Always wear creepers or felts on your boots when jetty fishing. Observe the jetty before venturing out: if the wave action is wild, wait awhile for the tide to drop; if conditions still don't improve, best fish from the beach. Since the best time to fish is at night, a good light is a must. For when you can't beach a fish, a long handle gaff of 6 to 8 feet should be carried. And for comfort, splash pants and rain jacket to keep yourself reasonably dry.

After suiting up, don't just run out to the tip. First start by working the "pocket," that area on the east side formed by the right angle of the jetty to the beach. Make a couple of casts

from the beach parallel to the jetty. Then as you begin to move out onto the jetty the casts are made parallel to the beach. The best spot sometimes can be just behind the third set of breakers. Some people spend their whole time just working that third wave and following it out as the tide drops. Preferring to keep moving, I hit each spot with a dozen casts, constantly switching plugs till something works. If nothing happens, I make a couple of casts on the inlet side before moving further out. I've never liked fishing the tip due to the way the rocks trail off into the water. Finding it not only hard to work and near impossible to land a fish, but dangerous as well. So most of my time is spent working the "ocean side" rather than the inlet. If no action has been found, I will work my way back and finish up the night back at the pocket.

The usual pattern is to cast to the right and work the plug in as the water swings the plug to the left. The first cast is to two o'clock, the second to one, and the third to twelve. If no one is standing to my left, a cast to eleven o'clock is made. When to move is a purely gut feeling, how many times I walked away from fish I'll never know, but by covering more area I increase my chance of bouncing a plug off a fish's head.

The plugs most often used to do the bouncing are pretty basic, but all have produced fish and so have earned a spot in the always over-crowded plug bag.

The first group of plugs are small swimmers that work deep. Five and a half inch Rebels in blue, black, and mackerel are the first placed in the bag. Over the years these have produced the most fish. Next, a five inch Nils Master in blue or black is added; numerous fish have been produced as this plug is bounced along the bottom. The small (6 inch) Danny metal lip eel plug is also a must in either dark or light blue. Most strikes coming as its metal lip breaks free from the sand and it swims forward.

The second group of plugs are all larger metal lip swimmers. My favorite of these is a black seven inch jointed that works right on top. It is also made by Danny, but is very hard to find. Another Danny product is a light blue Conrad plug. This flat-face version of an Atom Jr. goes the deepest of the larger plugs. Then there are some special items like an all black Atom Jr for those dark nights, but most other nights its place in the bag is taken by an all white Super Strike swimmer that works right on top. If space can be found, a blue and white darter (blue seems the hot color at West End) is added. When I feel I'll still be fishing at dawn, a popping plug is exchanged for the darter. Which plug to take or not take can become a problem. One can only guess at what will work. A never left home item is an Atom Jr. dressed with an eel skin. I like to use the eel skin turned inside out, the light blue coloring seems to be a turn-on for the fish. If larger skins can be had, an Atom 40 will likewise be dressed and jammed into the bag. With their metal lips bent almost flat, they work right on top with a side to side action that often gets explosive results. The last two years two small Super Strike needle fish have been added to the line-up, what with the bass going crazy over anything that looks like a sand eel. The last item stuffed into the bag is a rigged eel, always a hot item on West End 2 even hotter when the shedder crabs start to show. What the connection is between the two, I've yet to figure out for sure.

For better balance and since long casts are not needed, a shorter stick than what is commonly used by the beach crowd can be employed. A spinning rod of about 9 feet, like the BT 108 by Lamiglas with either a Crack 300 or Penn 704 makes a good jetty stick, but nothing gives better control over the plug than a conventional stick. One of 8 feet with some backbone, the old Harrington 540 was such a rod. Couple the rod with either a Garcia 7000 or the dependable Penn Squidder.

That's the spot, the technique and the gear but you will have to put it all together. It takes time to master this bass jetty.

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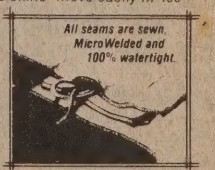

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J & J BAIT & TACKLE — PATCHOGUE
ALTENKIRCH TACKLE — HAMPTON BAYS
RALPH'S TACKLE — ISLAND PARK
WHITE'S HARDWARE — GREEPORT
SPECK'S BAIT & TACKLE — SOUTHAMPTON
SMOKEY'S BAIT & TACKLE - BAY SHORE
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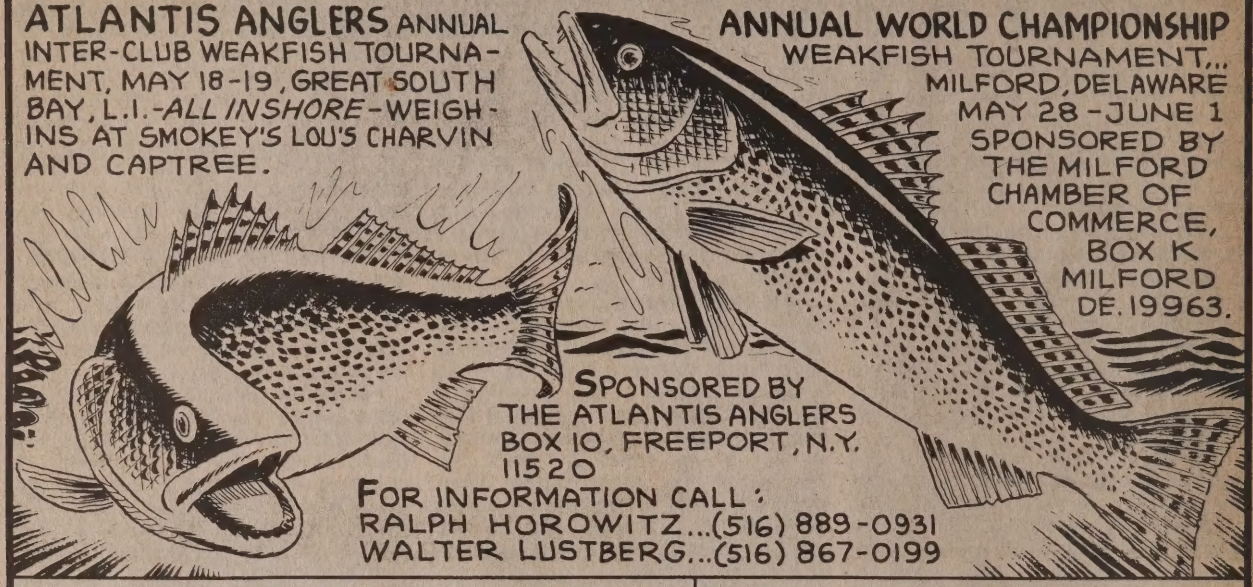
B & B TACKLE — CENTER MORICHES
LARKFIELD SPORTS — E. NORTHPORT

MAY NEWS, EVENTS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

ATLANTIS ANGLERS ANNUAL INTER-CLUB WEAKFISH TOURNAMENT, MAY 18-19, GREAT SOUTH BAY, L.I. -*ALL INSHORE* - WEIGH-INS AT SMOKEY'S LOU'S CHARVIN AND CAPTREE.



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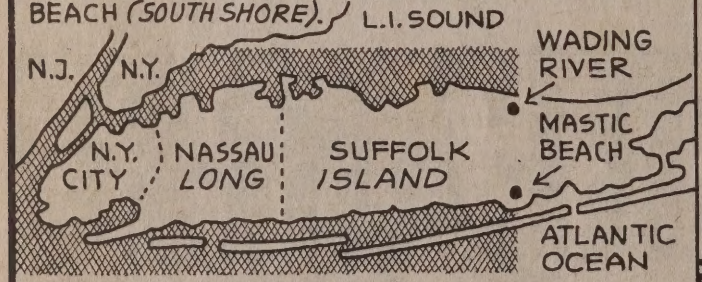

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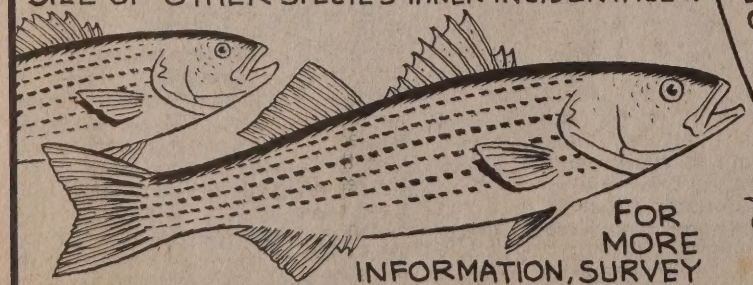

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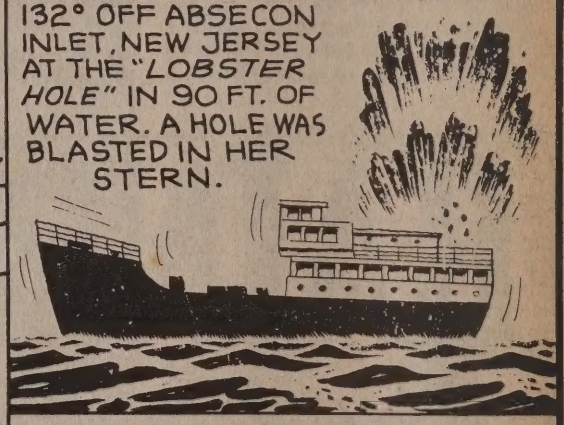

CONN. TAGGING NOTES: THREE STRIPED BASS CAUGHT BY S. GROSS IN THE GREENWICH COVE AREA WERE TAGGED, RELEASED AND ALL RECAPTURED A YEAR LATER NEARBY IN L.I. SOUND BETWEEN MILFORD, CONN. AND LARCHMONT, N.Y.

BEST FISHING DAYS FOR MAY WHEN THE MOON IS BETWEEN NEW AND FULL ARE MAY 1-4 & MAY 19-JUNE 2.

MACKEREL EXPRESS

by Drew Springer

As April starts blending into May, just about when those flounder that were so welcome a short time earlier begin to become boring, anglers on Long Island Sound impatiently await the annual invasion of the Atlantic mackerel, **Scomber scombrus**. Swarming inshore from colder, deeper offshore waters, this truly pelagic finster travels in schools so immense that they are literally too huge to estimate, urged on an annual spring migration by warming water temperatures, the pursuit of food and that ever-lovin' urge to spawn. They are not a large fish by any means; adults commonly reach 14 to 18 inches in length and weigh from 1 to 2 pounds, although some larger fish do occur at times. I think the record mackerel was a 7½ lb. whopper, but that is unofficial and far from the normal size of that species.

They occur along our Atlantic coast from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Cape Hatteras, and do not possess the swim bladder found in other varieties of the species, such as the chub mackerel and the Pacific mackerel. Because of this fact, our macks must literally swim or sink. They cannot rest because they lack the buoyancy provided by a swim bladder. This fact also makes our mackerel a very strong swimmer, thus enabling it to put up a fight when hooked that belies its small size. A sleek, streamlined fish, it has several finlets extending from its anal fin on bottom and its dorsal fin up top, to the tail, and is recognized by the irregular, zigzag stripes blending from an iridescent green back to its lateral stripe. There are no markings below the midline and the belly is a silvery white.

Mackerel feed on a very large assortment of foods, including small fishes, worms, squid, crustaceans, and minute plankton. In turn, they are eaten by a multitude of larger predators, like sharks, whales, porpoises, tuna, weakfish, bluefish, striped bass, pollock and cod. On top of all that, mackerel are also fair game to many sea birds as well as seals. It's obvious that, coupled with the inroads made on their population by man, the Atlantic mackerel is a prolific fish, which bodes well for the angler seeking them for bait as well as their delicious, though somewhat oily, flesh.

We see them frolicking on the surface early in May (sometimes earlier than that, if water temperatures are unusually warm), but they are so busy spawning that they will have nothing to do with food, a situation that can be extremely frustrating to eager anglers. When they are finished with their love-making they are ravenous and feed avidly, creating some fast and furious, somewhat hectic, fishing. Party boats carry full contingents of hopeful anglers on a daily basis, and it is not uncommon to see many of the these fishermen carry off two or three burlap sacks full of macks at the end of the day. The peak of the season is signalled when these party packets schedule two or more trips each day, a sure sign that the macks are not only as thick as fleas, but close to port. Come along for a typical ride aboard a local party boat, as we sail into the Sound for a half-day mackerel trip.

Choosing whichever sailing time best suits your purpose, you can opt for either the morning run or the afternoon trip; some boats offer a third opportunity for those who cannot meet either earlier sailing time, and provide an early evening trip also. We gotta work if we want to eat, so I gave the boss some lame excuse and caught the North Star as she prepared to leave her berth in City Island at 4PM. The rest of the fleet that made up the Sound contingent were all also on either full or half-day schedules, so you have a considerable latitude in making your choice. The Bronx Queen, out of the Bronx River at Westchester Ave., the Apache, and Claire of City Island, the Klondike VIII of New Rochelle and the Lady Lil of Glen Cove are all boats located on the western Sound, along with the aforementioned North Star; further east out of Huntington, the Ever Ready II also joins in on the bonanza. Most boats mentioned are on a one trip daily schedule, two or three offer mini-versions several times a week. It is best to check the ads listed within this magazine or your local newspaper for correct, up-to-the-minute information.

(Continued on next page.)

Party boat procedure is cut and dried, no frills fishing, aimed at getting as much for for as many anglers as possible within a specified length of time. The operation is highly efficient. Schools of fish are located electronically, on depth finders more commonly known as fish finders because of the manner in which they can pinpoint the schools of mackerel with unerring accuracy. Once fish are located and feeding depth verified by the stylus of the graph recorder, the boat is stopped uptide of the school and made to drift down-current as chumming operations begin. Chum is an essential part of efficient mackerel fishing. Cans of frozen, ground-up bunker are thawed out on the trip to the fishing grounds, then mixed with sea water in a large bucket until a thick, soupy consistency is formed. This "soup" is then ladled out into the water on the updrift side of the boat, forming a slick that is carried under the hull, out past the opposite side and beyond. This slick carries tiny bits and pieces of fish along with the natural oils and scents downtide to the school of mackerel and whets their appetite to the point that they follow the slick to its source, feeding uptide in their natural manner. As the macks get stacked up near the boat, darting this way and that in mad search of bits of the hors d'oeuvres, they become easy prey to the angler.

Where once we actually used to fish for mackerel with bait, this technique has been replaced with the modern, more efficient method known as jigging. Instead of a sinker, the angler ties a diamond jig to the end of his line, a highly-polished, chromed metal lure featuring four or more flat facets and armed with a treble hook at one end. The jig is dropped to the proper depth, as revealed by the recorder, and yo-yoed up and down in place. The darting, flashing jig must look like a baitfish to those hungry macks, because they attack the lure with a vengeance. For multiple hook-ups, two or three tube lure teasers are attached to the line ahead of the jig, each at dropper loops spaced far enough apart to allow for the length of a hooked fish. Prefabricated rigs, called mackerel trees, are available aboard ship or can be purchased at tackle shops, but most anglers simply create their own rigs because they are simple to concoct. Though many of us see fit to tie directly to the main line, I like my mackerel tree fashioned on a four foot length of 30 lb. test mono leader material. Simply form a sinker loop at one end of the leader, or attach a strong, black snap, to accommodate the diamond jig. Feeling here is 50/50 for each method of connection and each is equally as easy to make fast changes of jig sizes when the need arises. A black barrel swivel is then tied to the other end of the leader with an improved clinch knot, leaving a three inch tail of leader material extending past the knot for one tube attachment. A dropper loop is tied into the leader about one-third of the way below the swivel and one more dropper loop is then formed midway between that and the jig. This arrangement gives you connectors for three teasers, each spaced equally apart with enough space in-between each for hooked fish.

The tube lures are also easy to make, requiring long-shanked ringed-eye Carlisle or Pacific bass hooks of from 1/0 to 3/0 sizes and some three or four inch lengths of 1/4 inch latex or vinyl tubing. Taper one end of the tube to a point, starting from about the 2½ inch part, which will leave a "tail" of about an inch or so projecting beyond the hook bend after the tube is slid up on the hook shank. Insert the dropper loop through the hook eye and carry it over and beyond the teaser tail, snugging it tight once the entire tube is through the loop. For the top connection, merely tie the strand of leader projecting from the swivel to the eye of a hook, again with an improved clinch knot, and slip a tube over the hook.

When this rig is lowered to within range of the feeding mackerel, the angler jigs his line in an up and down motion, creating an illusion of several small baitfish trying to escape from a slightly larger predator. This turns the macks on and they race each other to engulf both bait and imagined predator, often competing with one another over the same booby-trapped

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imitator. Quite often, the first fish hooked will dart frantically to and fro through the milling school, thereby creating greater competition from its peers, ensuing in rapid hook-ups on the remaining lures. Full trees of three or four mackerel are a common occurrence, no small wonder that burlap sacks get filled fairly easily at times.

Because of the combined weight and the stress applied by three or four fish caught at the same time, plus the fact that rails are generally lined elbow to elbow by anglers most of the time, the light tackle commanded by these small fish is best set aside in lieu of slightly heavier stuff at this time. In deference to horrendously tangled lines and short-fused tempers of excited fellow anglers, slightly heavy tackle is the way to go when aboard party packets. Time enough for the light wands and miniature jigs tied to gossamer line when you're in a private boat or on a chartered craft, when you can better appreciate these battling bantams one at a time. At those times, each fish will test not only your tackle but your mettle as a skilled angler, because they are not overpowered by heavy tackle. Aboard party boats, meat is the name of the game and people actually seem to become crazed with the mania of seeing just how many fish they can catch, believe it or not. It is quite understandable for something like this to happen in a sport where days of plenty are tempered with prolonged spells of drought or near drought, and it could be condoned if harvested stocks were not wantonly wasted much of the time. I can see stocking your freezer with bait for future use and food for eventual consumption, but there is no excuse for indiscriminate slaughter. Too often in the past, other plentiful species were exploited to the point of near extinction and we have always blamed "the other guy." Well, dear fellows and gals, as Pogo so wisely stated in the comic strip of that same name, "We have met the enemy and he is us!" Simply stated, a little self-imposed moderation could go a long way towards preserving this magnificent fishery for a long time. Take as many as you need, of course, but please use as many as you take!

Where once we at the western end of the Sound had to bide our time, impatiently awaiting the influx of mackerel into our area that guys on the south shore were catching weeks earlier, we do exact a bit of mild belated vengeance by having mackerel long after they have departed ocean haunts. In fact, many of the party boats from Sheepshead Bay make the trip up the East River to join our mackerel fleet, testament to the popularity of this fish indeed.

So, join the ranks of satisfied anglers this spring. Check the ads to learn when the mackerel are leaping and select a party boat of your choice. You can't go wrong by climbing aboard The Mackerel Express!

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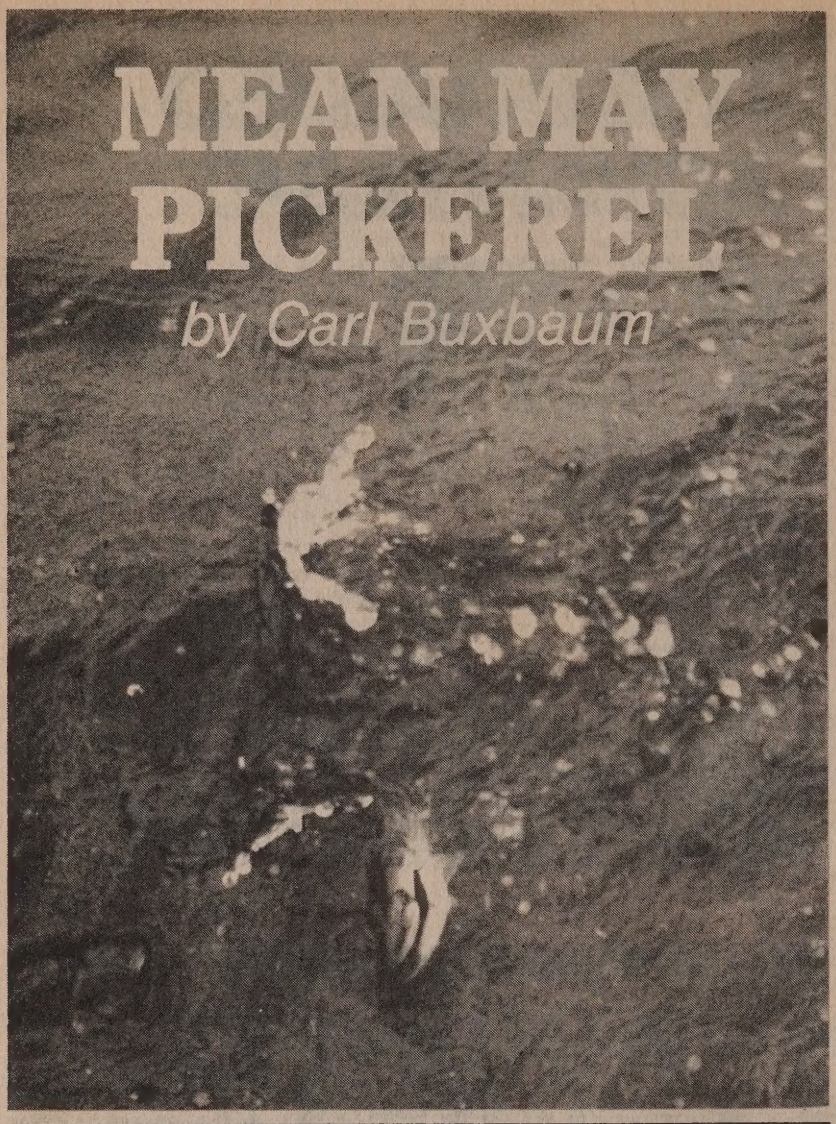
MEAN MAY PICKEREL

by Carl Buxbaum



This unpredictable warrior of the lilly pads rates four stars as a freshwater gamester.

I had the jitters—the kind of feeling remembered from high school, just before a geometry exam. I "sort of" knew the stuff, yet anything could happen. But I was only going pickerel fishing for fun. Why was I all churned up, rushing my gear down to the lake? Because it was May and it might be the day—the day the pickerel wake up mean.

Pickerel feed year-round and are a favorite quarry of ice fishermen. By and large, though, they fall mainly for live killies or minnows. Now, pickerel are about as unpredictable a fish as ever lived, but something happens at this time of year. They develop a diabolical interest in smashing artificials. It probably has something to do with water temperature, length of day, and availability of newborn of other species. It is doubtful that anyone knows for sure what makes these denizens of the weeds turn so nasty.

Few anglers make special efforts to catch pickerel. Some hate them. What a mistake. This duck-billed savage is a first-rate gamester. To my mind, a game fish should tantalize the fisherman. It shouldn't be a sucker for any old fishing approach. Once stung by a hook, it should fight ferociously enough to get free—sometimes—and should be either beautiful or interesting to the eye. Pickerel are not good looking. But they sure are weird. I considered them game fish long ago.

I must have been 9 or 10 years old, trying to bare-hand bullfrogs at the edge of an upstate farm pond. A frog jumped to the water as I lunged and missed. The instant it splashed, a long primitive looking creature charged out of nowhere; something from the age of the dinosaurs, I thought. Its toothy jaws snapped on the frog's right side. In a flash, the frog was released and grabbed again, by the head. The right side was shredded. Then it was over. The beast, frog in mouth, vanished into the thick weeds, as suddenly as it had appeared.

The round trip to the hotel room took about an hour and I was casting a red and white "Dardevle" spoon along the edge of the weedbed where the pickerel was holed up. Nothing happened. Maybe that was the only fish there. He couldn't have much appetite with that bullfrog bulging in his gut. I wouldn't quit, but the retrieves were slowing down with my waning enthusiasm. Finally, a sinister form emerged, stalked the lure right up to the rod tip, and turned away. He followed on the next cast and about halfway back, I slowed the retrieve to a near stall. He lost interest. So, on the next follow, I cranked fast. He was in hot pursuit all the way but wouldn't take. The only other lure I owned, a minnow plug, was ignored.

For three days that fish toyed with me, and I was prepared to concede the battle of wills. A hopeless cast was launched on the fourth day, and the sucker surprisingly slammed the spoon the second it hit water—as if he was fed up too and was going to put an end to that stupid red and white intruder. It made a powerful run for the weeds, but that old, solid glass rod, braided line and Ocean City baitcaster my grandfather bought me turned him easily. As line was gained, the critter made a long, arcing run to the left, digging for bottom snags all the way. Close in, he took to the air. Again. Again. About 4 or 5 times in all. Only one hook of the treble remained tenuously clinging to a corner of its mouth—way back, below the eye. Afraid of losing the fish by dragging him up the bank, I ran into the water clutching at it. But there was no handle. Pickerel are all teeth and slime. The second time it slipped from my hand, it was free and ducked right back into the weeds it called home all along. Now, you can't tell me that's not a game fish.

I learned a few things about pickerel then and some more since. They're finicky. They're loners. They lurk quietly in the cover of weeds, waiting for innocent victims to pass. Their favorite foods seem to be fish and frogs, but sometimes they'll attack any intruder in the territory they've staked out as home. As long as the home territory provides adequate cover and forage, a pickerel may remain in the same spot for weeks at a time. If it's a really good spot, a high class pickerel neighborhood, so to speak; a larger bully may evict the resident and take over. When an angler catches a pickerel from a desirable home, another fish, climbing the dominance ladder, is apt to move in.

The ability to recognize good pickerel housing contributed to the jitters I suffered last May. It was the second consecutive year that snow melts and early season rains pushed the water levels up in local ponds and lakes. The flooded shoreline vegetation and deadfalls provided excellent spawning habitat for most species and fantastic cover for pickerel. A better

year than most fishermen had in some time might be expected. All one had to do was be there when the fish turned on.

It was my fourth try of the season, and it paid off. Strategically, it seemed good to cover as much territory as possible, since there was such an abundance of flooded grass. Wading the shoreline and casting a 1/4 ounce Fiord Spoon parallel to the grass and weeds, there was instant action. Every fifth cast or so ended with a 14 to 17 pickerel being landed, and they were in that mean May mood: aggressive and fierce. But where were the bigger ones, the husky, strong brutes?

I thought I'd try a Mepps spinner on the way back rather than give up on a lure that was working. When I got to that weedy pocket, though, the one that was fishy even during dry years, I couldn't resist firing off the whole arsenal. First, the edges of the weeds were worked over with the spoon. The result: a fat 19 incher. When I got to the red and white Mepps, its twin struck and ran right into the weeds. The spinner and fish's face were festooned with green stuff by the end of the fight. This was a fancy pickerel district and covered a large area. It was hard to believe that those landed were without close neighbors. Small, safety pin style, spinnerbaits with plastic squirm tails were run right up against the weedline and cast into breaks to no avail. Soon, such a ruckus was caused by the frantic effort that any self-respectin predator in range must've grown wary. So, I moved on along the shore and took another fish about 18 inches long on a white, plastic-tailed spinnerbait. But that fishy pocket stuck in my mind.

I rushed back to fish above the submerged weeds instead of just working the edges—something I'd forgotten to try. The 3½ inch Rapala splashed down gently. As the rings spread the weeds were visible, no more than a few inches below the surface. A twitch of the rod tip set off a second round of rings. The plug hadn't moved more than an inch or so. Memories of my first pickerel said, "Be persistent, they may be smart, but you can be more stubborn." The rings dissipated and I retrieved the plug about a foot. Another twitch and the Rapala dove and bobbed back to the surface. The rings were about gone when a boomerang-shaped hump bulged the surface. In an instant, the hump made a semi-circle around the plug. It all happened so fast. I never actually saw the fish. The plug simply vanished, no splash, no fuss. The ultralight spinning rod bent to the limit and the reel squealed in protest as it let go of a yard or two of the fragile 4 lb. line. Like a fool, I found myself mumbling to the fish, "Head for deep water, stay out of the weeds." With some coaxing from the rod, the fish cooperated. At my feet finally, I grasped the pickerel just behind the head with a **wet** towel. The towel doesn't seem to harm fish and allows a firm, non-crushing grip on slippery escape artists. The hooks were gently removed with a small needle-nose pliers. He was beefy and measured just over 21 inches. When released, he just sat in the water before me. Growing concerned about his survival, I reached down to move him back and forth—get some water running through the gills to revive the critter. But he was fine, only confused. With the shadow of my hand approaching, he flashed off into the weeds.

Okay, what does all this add up to? If you want to have fun with pickerel, equip yourself with a light spinning outfit or fly rod. Spin fishermen will do best with slow to moderate retrieves using spoons, Mepps type spinners, and minnow plugs. Fly-casters do well with streamers, bucktails and bass bugs. Be alert for follows. Keep your eyes on the water. If a pickerel is present, it can probably be caught by angler determination. If you're really desperate, live minnows or frogs (where legal) are most productive. Some anglers use wire leaders to thwart those razor sharp teeth. Others say, however, that fewer hook-ups result and find that cutting back the nicked line after each strike is sufficient to avoid cutoffs. Don't forget the towel and, if fishing from a boat or wading deep, a net.

At least 15 bodies of pickerel water are within convenient reach of readers. The best bets are in Suffolk County and include Lake Ronkonkoma, Laurel Lake, Patchogue Lake, and Belmont Lake. Forge Pond and the Peconic River sytem may be tops. I know of at least one 4¾ pounder taken at Forge Pond last May. Canaan Lake occasionally gives up a 3 to 4 lb. pickerel and I've seen photos of some in the 4 pound class from Southards Pond. In Nassau County, Hempstead Lake is a reliable pickerel hole with an occasional big fish. Those who wander north to Westchester County might want to try the Kensico Reservoir. Last September, my father-in-law and I found a pickerel lurking beneath nearly every deadfall, as we worked the cluttered shallows in search of bass. None were big, but they were big enough. It's just got to be a great spot in May.

Pickerel look as mean as they are tough.

MAY SPELLS VARIETY IN WESTERN SOUND

by Ted Keatley

April may be the real start of the fishing season, but May brings better weather and greater variety to western Long Island Sound.

As this issue reaches readers, flounder fishing is just beyond the spring peak, the mackerel should be with us and there will be the first reports of blackfish. By the end of the month, there could be some good action with school striped bass, blackfishing will be at its best and we may even have a few bluefish or an occasional weakfish. I am expecting an excellent season for blackfish and striped bass. Bluefishing should be good, although results will be sporadic until mid-June. However weakfish are at the wrong end of the abundance cycle north of Delaware Bay and mackerel are a big question mark.

The availability of mackerel in the western Sound has varied inversely with the size of the total Atlantic Coast population during the past 15 years. When overall numbers were decimated by the foreign trawlers in the early 1970s, fishing was fantastic. However, for the past few years as the coastal population rebuilt, the runs in this area have been smaller and of shorter duration. Last spring was the first time in 15 years that I had trouble getting enough mackerel for the bait freezer.

Actually, mackerel are not an important commercial fish in the United States. Like the striped bass, this is a species which is less affected by the commercial take than the sports catch in the northeast. There apparently is a limited market beyond the area running from Chesapeake Bay through New England, probably because this oily fish becomes strong tasting if not eaten promptly. Data collected by outdoor writer Al Ristori indicated that the total annual catch by United States efforts during the early 1970s was only about 17,000 tons with all but 2,000 tons taken by sportsmen.

The foreign vessel fishery prior to the 200 Mile Limit was another story. Their catch increased from 68,000 tons in 1968 to a peak of 385,000 tons in 1972. As a result of excessive pressure on the population, the total had declined to 54,000 tons in 1977, the last year before the 200 Mile Limit excluded the foreign fleet from the fishery. Since then, the foreign take has been only a few hundred tons per year netted as an incidental catch while fishing for other species.

Another major factor in the size of the Western Long Island Sound run is the availability of baitfish. It takes a tremendous amount of food to hold a large body of mackerel in an area for any length of time. Since the Atlantic mackerel has no swim bladder, the fish must keep swimming 24 hours a day. If they were to stop, they would sink to the bottom and literally drown. With these fish, swimming and eating are synonymous. Constant movement means a very high energy requirement.

When the mackerel first arrive, they tend to be spooky and many are spawning. As a result, trolling often proves more effective than the drifting technique preferred later in the season.

Although the effective length of troll can vary, 60 to 70 feet normally is best. The commonest rig is a mackerel tree with a jig at the end. The tree is a length of monofilament with four small tubes on four to six inch leaders spaced along the length. Hook sizes range from #2 to 1/0. A diamond jig is commonly used on the end, but I have found a lure with a fluttering action to be more effective. My choice is the 3¼ oz. M&M Sand Eel Jig or a Krocodile.

Jigging is better sport than trolling. When the fish are concentrated, it also is more effective. With four tubes and a treble hooked jig, it is possible to catch four, five or even six mackerel at a time. Fishermen often let the first one run around until it has picked up enough friends to fill all of the hooks.

When jigging, it only is necessary to let out 15 to 30 feet of line. The length is determined by the depth of the fish and the speed of the drifting boat. More often than not, I can see the upper tube at the top of a ligging lift. Mackerel like a fast moving bait, so keep jigging constantly. Sometimes short, choppy strokes are best. However, most of the time, a long sweeping movement bringing the rod tip above the level of your head results in more hits.

I prefer a fairly heavy jig which drops fast and comes up against the end of the slack with a bang. Often, you wait for this thud until you realize that it is not going to happen because a mackerel intercepted the lure on the way down.

If this year proves to be a repeat of the 1970s and you find yourself taking fish in bunches like grapes, you soon have enough for the bait freezer and any other possible use. After you have caught a few hundred mackerel, what do you do for an encore? For greater sport, try a small white or silver lure on a light spinning or baitcasting outfit. I have a couple which handle a half ounce spoon very nicely. Many times, virtually every cast produced a hit. More often than not, if a fish broke off, another would strike the lure before the retrieve was completed.

Although mackerel usually remain in the deeper water of mid-Sound, they sometimes come close to shore or even move into harbors. However, the bulk of the fish usually are found slightly toward the Long Island side from the middle of the Sound. The rapid gathering of boats soon will tell you where the mackerel are feeding on a particular day. Normally, I would expect the best fishing just south of a line drawn from buoy 32A off Greenwich eastward to buoy 28A (formerly 24C). Further east, the area from Cranes Neck on Long Island to Penfield Reef at the west end of Bridgeport is quite productive. This is the waters slightly west of the Middle Ground.

When the fish travel further toward the New York City line, they often concentrate between buoy 42 off Mamaroneck and Hempstead Harbor and in the vicinity of Execution Rocks outside of New Rochelle.

Last year, both the spring and fall runs of blackfish were fantastic and I see no reason why this season should be different. Although I only fish the deep water reefs in the fall, I do most of my blackfishing closer to shore in the spring. There is good inshore blackfishing in the fall as well, but I usually am too busy with bluefish to bother with them until they have started their migraiton back to deeper water during the latter part of October.

Mid-May to mid-June is the peak of spring blackfishing. Last season, I fished various areas from the Stamford Cows inside of buoy 32 eastward to Smiths Ledge (buoy 30). A number of rocky areas along Shippan Point with a depth of 15 to 25 feet proved quite rewarding. However, virtually any reef of consequence from City

Island to Bridgeport was productive. The most consistent action was to be found where the rocky area extended offshore to deeper water.

Blacks remain semi-dormant in deep rocky holes during the coldest weather and begin to move toward shore as the water warms. A few are taken by flounder fishermen or in lobster pots before April is out. However, tradition is that the season starts with the blooming of the dogwood and this is a pretty good rule of thumb. The blacks spawn in shallow water from mid-May into June and often feed in areas which are out of water at low tide.

It is said that blacks have a "soft mouth" in early spring and clams or fiddler crabs do seem more productive at the start of the season than the tough-shelled green crabs which I normally prefer. To the east in Rhode Island, sandworms often are used for blackfish. In our waters, bergalls usually arrive a little before the blacks and I never have figured a way to keep a worm away from these thieves long enough for a blackfish to take it.

By late May, green crabs are the bait to use if you want big fish. An added advantage is the fact that bergalls have a tough time gnawing half of a green crab off the hook.

When fishing close to shore, a common trick is to cast your bait onto a rock where there is an abrupt drop-off to deep water. Then, with a flick of your wrist, you can put the bait into the hole alongside.

A double anchor to keep the boat from swinging is a virtual necessity when fishing shallow water. It is especially important if you wish to cast to a particular rock. Blacks tend to be wary when feeding in "thin" water and even your shadow can spook them. Thus, a steady boat and very little commotion greatly enhances your prospects when fishing in very little water.

Blacks move with the tide and in shallow areas, the rising tide and the beginning of the fall usually are most productive. Many experts have a series of moves which they make: toward shore on the rising tide and back out to deeper water on the drop.

I cut a green crab cleanly in half and leave the legs and the back shell exactly where nature put them. Some articles which I have read describe involved surgical procedures in detail. So far as I am concerned, by the time that you have removed the legs, pulled off the back shell and quartered the body, you have only a bergall hors d'oeuvre left.

If you ask for blackfish hooks in the tackle shop, you will receive Virginia pattern. These are a short pointed, kirbed hook resistant to bending. I am a maverick when fishing green crabs since my preference is a much larger 6/0 Sproat. These hooks have a small wire diameter for their size and come from the box needle sharp. The only disadvantage is the fact that the point turns rather readily. However, they are easily re-sharpened and cheap enough to throw away if the point is in really bad shape.

The author unhooks a double on blackfish for D.J. Ossenfort. Ted expects a repeat of last season's good blackfishing this spring. Photo by Art Glowka.

One final caution: if you are not hanging up on rocks or losing a badly fouled rig occasionally, you are not fishing blackfish bottom. There are a few exceptions such as the oyster beds inside the Norwalk Islands, but normally you need rough, rocky bottom for good blackfishing.

A large body of medium sized blues appeared off Captains Island at Greenwich during the latter part of May in 1982 and it is not unusual to have the initial run of bluefish by early June.

One of the first spots to produce most seasons is "off the hospital." This is an area in mid-Sound between the Lilco loading platform and Cranes Neck. Wire line trolling is the usual technique with an umbrella the preferred lure. However, sharpies such as Rowayton marine dealer Bert van Sciver sometimes do well around dusk with small popping plugs. A good depth recorder, preferably a chart, is invaluable in picking up the sand eel schools which hold the blues in this area during late spring. If you locate the schools, you usually have found at least a couple of blues.

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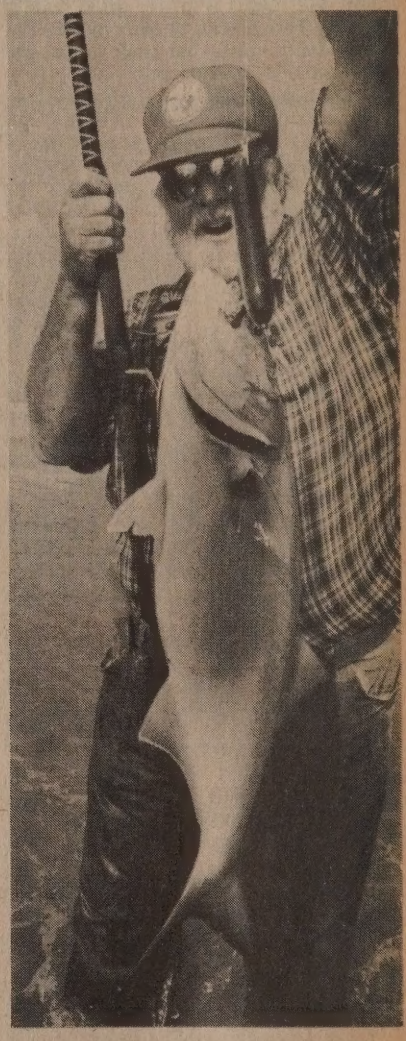

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HOW TO MAKE YOUR TUBE RIGS CATCH MORE FISH

by Russ Wilson

Dragging a set of "tube rigs" in your wake is no guarantee to success.

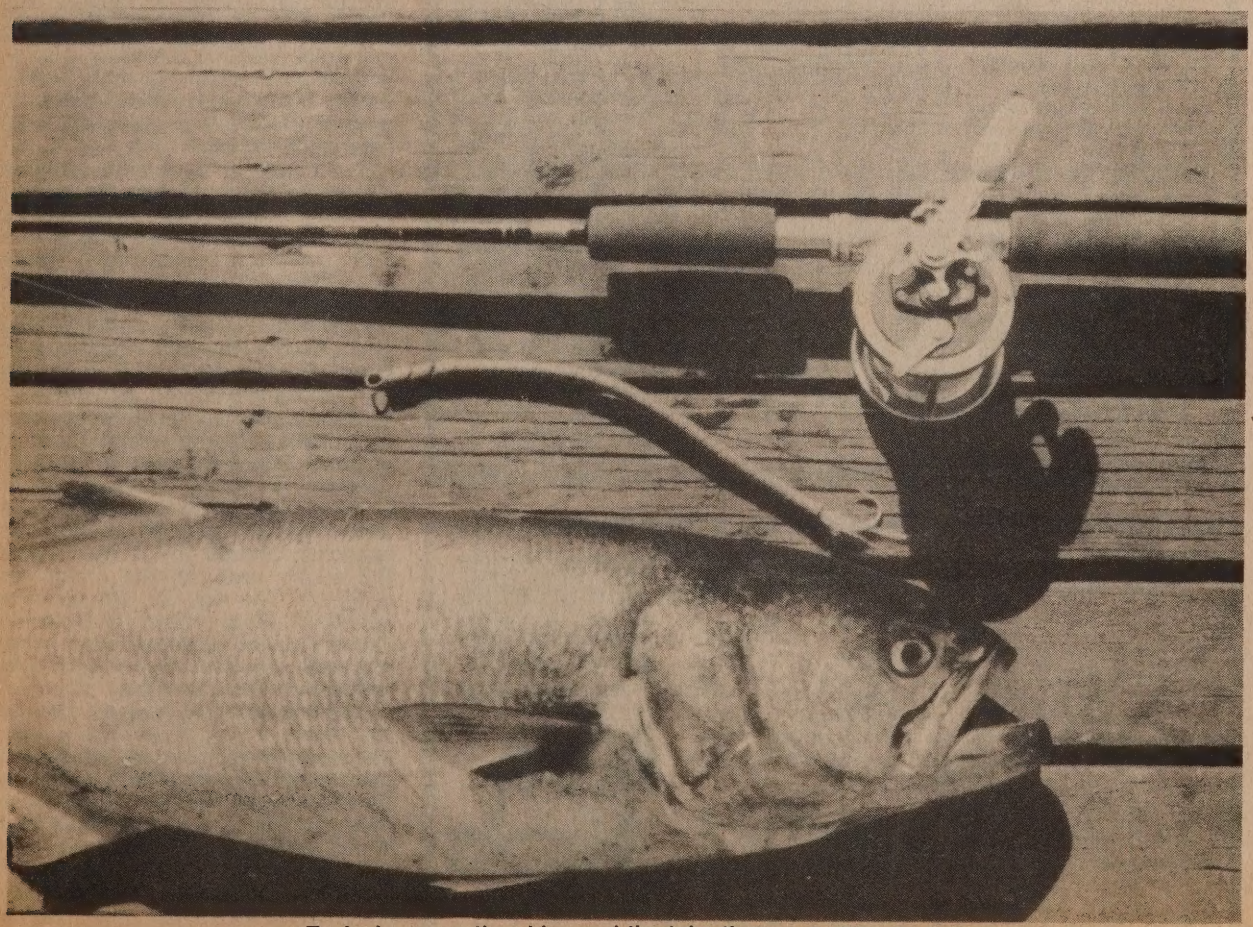
I glanced toward the stern of the boat after hearing a shout from my fishing partner Bob Beck and was just in time to see about 30 pounds of nasty bluefish come bouncing to the surface in an attempt to dislodge the hooks of a multi-arm mini umbrella rig. I saw not one, but four blues thrashing the surface to a froth. Each of the short teasers that made up the outside arms of the rig was attached to a mean-mouthed blue and only the trailer hook had not fulfilled its destiny.

Pure pandemonium reigned for several minutes as Beck brought his multiple catch to the boat where I finally managed to manhandle all four fish over the gun'l and onto the deck where they finished their fight for life. At times, trolling multiple tube rigs can be very exciting and this was one of those rare moments when everything falls into place. Beck complained of sore muscles and I was not overly pleased with the mess that four well-fed blues had made of my boat's stern area. It is, however, all a part of trolling for blues and when things go right even the complaints are made with a tongue-in-cheek approach.

Bluefish and surgical tube rigs were made for each other. There is no doubt in this reporter's mind that trolling with tubes is one of the most productive methods that fishermen can use when seeking the mean mouth slammer blues that invade our coastal waters each season. Unfortunately, not all who use the tubes are successful in their quest. And, by the same token, not all tube rigs are fashioned in the same manner.

That's why it pays to revamp your rigs and to experiment with different size or color tubes. The stock tube as it comes from the package may sport a 5/0 or 6/0 hook. It may also have only

(Continued on next page.)



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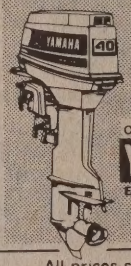

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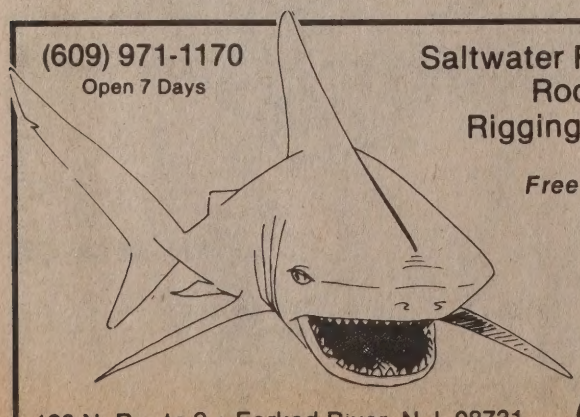

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a very slight bend or no bend at all. Some manufacturers use thin-walled surgical tubing while others go with the thick wall tubing. This will have an effect on how the lure performs and will dictate also how long it stands up under the tremendous beating it takes from the dentures of a hungry blue.

Most of today's tackle manufacturers are all too aware of "cost effective" manufacturing procedures. If they can save a few pennies by using a swivel instead of chain, or if a 5/0 hook will allow a slight savings over and above the cost of using 7/0 hooks you can almost bet their lures will sport a 5/0 hook and a single swivel. It is not because of ignorance on the part of the lure makers, but is a way to shave costs at the wholesale end which, in turn, is then passed along to the retailers.

I'd rather pay a little more and get a little more. This is doubly true if it means more fish in the box at the end of a day at sea, and in the case of using tube lures for bluefish it may well mean fewer fish by using lures that are not quite on a par with those which have a short length of chain or a larger hook.

We have used tube rigs for the better part of 15 years and can attest to their effectiveness when it comes to separating bluefish from their watery home. In the beginning the manner i which those surgical tubes were rigged was not too important, but today, with thousands of other eager fishermen working the same waters, you will find it pays to go that one step further if you hope to join the elite 10 percent of fishermen who catch 90 percent of the fish.

The majority of our bluefish trolling is done in waters that do not exceed 50 feet. For this reason we tend to go with single strand wire line and a short section of monofilament leader that's finished with a snap swivel. As a rule we use 50 pound test monofilament for the leaders and 40 pound single strand wire that's backed with either Dacron (50 lb.) or mono (50 lb.). You may want to go lighter or heavier, depending on how you fish and in what type waters you do most of your bluefish trolling.

The actual tube rig can be a mini or full size and may have 2, 4 or 6 arms and anywhere from 3 to 13 tubes festooned around the frame, inside the frame and off the frame as droppers. The rigs are set up in a variety of ways in each area of the North Atlantic Seaboard and what may work perfectly in one spot may not be effective in another.

I prefer the "coat hanger" style of rig. This is a simple cross bar w hich has a snap at each end for a tube and one slot at the center which is used to rig the dropper. We've caught three blues at a time with this setup and with a 4-arm rig we've had as many as five fish on at one time. I hesitate to think about a multiple hook-up with one of those 6-arm rigs which sport a full dozen hooks in the rig and another

that serves as a dropper. That kind of rig could cause nightmares to the weak of heart.

If you are using the four arm rigs, and most bluefishermen do prefer this arrangement, you'll find it pays to mix and match your colors. Reds and greens are always hot items on the bluefish menu, but at times they will home in on yellow, blue, purple, orange or black tubes while ignoring the usual Christmas colors of red and green.

We carry a complete assortment of colors and even include some that are a combination of two colors. It costs a little more, but in the long run will pay off in additional fish.

As stated at the onset, we prefer Bead Chain rather than the single barrel swivel arrangement. Our first step when purchasing tubes for the rig is to remove the 5/0, 6/0 or 7/0 hook and replace them with 10/0 Limerick hooks. These are available in boxes of 100 or you can buy them in smaller quantities and use them as needed.

Bead Chain comes in varying lengths. We carry short sections that measure 2, 4 and 6 inches and will rig some tubes on each length prior to a fishing trip. The longer lengths give a greater dropback from the arm of the tube rig while the shorter lengths do allow the lure to swing more freely, and without any twist to the line. Each has its own place in the overall scheme and you will be wise to pick up a selection of lengths so you have all bases covered.

Those 10/0 Limerick hooks will have open ring type eyes and can be inserted through the eye of the Bead Chain and then drawn through the surgical tube. It is critical that the tube have a bend when rigged or it will not spin and as a result will not have the fish attracting appeal that it needs.

The final step is to attach the tubes to your umbrella or gorilla rig and that is easy to do since most manufacturers build their rigs with lure loop fasteners that open or close to facilitate fast changing of tubes.

Once you've reassembled your tube rigs and have a chance to try them out you will notice the results immediately. The tubes will now be spinning more freely, you won't miss as many hits and you certainly will not see as many fish "spit" the hook as when using the smaller size 5/0 or 6/0 Limericks.

That's only part of the benefits. When you hoist a still mad and thrashing bluefish into the boat you can grab hold of the 10/0 and use it like a miniature gaff to work it loose from the fish's mouth.

The parts we've mentioned are readily available through most sporting goods outlets, bait and tackle shops or through mail order houses that cater to sportsmen who like to build their own lures. Here again, it pays to show. You will find prices vary considerably from company to company.

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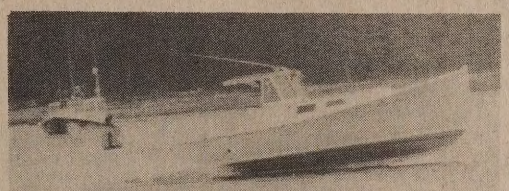

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STATEN ISLAND THRU THE SEASON

by Rich Giessuebel

The fishing possibilities around Staten Island are very numerous, indeed! Surrounded by water, the island sees seasonal migrations of flounder, blackfish, sea bass, striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, fluke, porgies and spot (lafayettes). With only about 14 miles of fishable coastline, area anglers learn the hotspots quickly and then persist in catching the various game fish that visit their coast. From just above the Verrazano Narrows Bridge in the north to Tottenville in the south, the different species will invade parts of the island asa the seasons progress. In this article, we will look at the calendar year in regards to the species and tout the hotspots so that you might be able to get in on the near-by action.

In order to best cover the island, let's quickly look at the matrix of roadways which will best service you. Running north and south, you have two major roads. Hylan Boulevard runs from Clifton Street beach in the north all the way south on the island to Tottenville. This is about 14 miles and just about runs along the full expanse of fishable waters. On the northern side of the island, running along South Beach is Father Capodanno Boulevard. With these two roads, fishermen can get to 98 percent of the fishable waters. In order to get to either boulevard, in the north from the Bayonne or Goethal's bridges, proceed towards the Verrazano Narrows Bridge on Route 278 (Staten Island Expressway). Exit at Hylan Blvd. or the last exit before the toll for Father Capodanno Blvd. From the Outerbridge Crossing in the south, follow Tottenville signs to bring you to Hylan Boulevard. Or you can also follow Route 440 north to Route 278 and follow the directions given above. These, then, are the major arteries that you will require to follow this fishing forecast!

The prime fishing beaches you will need to know about are spread out along these arteries. In the north and at the end of Hylan Blvd. is Clifton Beach. Here, striped bass can be caught year-round. In the shadows of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, Clifton Beach offers excellent potential because it is the narrows or entrance to the Upper New York City Bay. There are very strong and tricky currents in this vicinity, making it a haven for big bass which just love these conditions. Flounder fishermen score both in the spring and fall. Best flounder months include mid-March through May in the spring and November into December in the fall. Of course, the best baits include blood and sand worms.

Dale Faenza of Staten Island caught this fluke off Hoffman Island in the lower New York Harbor.

Just down the beach from here is Forth Wadsworth. Anglers gain entrance to the fort with a fishing rod in the car and can proceed down to where they are fishing directly beneath the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Large swimming plugs are fished in the swift currents for such favorites as the striped bass, chopper bluefish, and large tiderunner weakfish. The best season for catching these species is from May through September. On good days, there can be up to 50 guys casting lures for these gamesters. Many wear chest waders and move out along the sandy beach where they cast with giant 11 foot rods, in some cases out into the fast moving currents.

Others prefer to drift through this area using live bunker for bait. The absolute best time and tide for this fishery is at dawn on the last two hours of an outgoing tide. Anglers should fish #2 trebles tied directly to the line about two feet ahead of a one ounce trolling sinker. Hook the bunker through his nostrils and allow

him to free spool to the bottom. Now, engage the reel and take up about one turn on your reel. The bunker will be able to swim along in the current with the boat while remaining very near the bottom where the lunker population waits in ambush!

Moving south from Fort Wadsworth, you come to South Beach where, along with the above mentioned species, you can catch fluke all summer long or from about mid-June on into October for most years. Sand porgies often invade this area, too. For blackfish lovers, there are about two weeks in the spring and fall which bring blackfish (tautogs or togs) right up to the beach. All area rock piles offer excellent tog fishing in the spring and fall. Some of these beaches include while moving south Midland Beach and New Dorp Beach. With storm sewer exits and jetties alike all along these beaches, all game fish are pursued and caught in season.

To give you some idea of numbers of fish caught, we have made fluke catches off these beaches numbering in the 50s, weakfish up to a half a dozen a tide, and sometimes as many bluefish as you can carry. So, we are not talking about an isolated fish here and there! However, the fluke law in New York State prohibits you from killing any fluke under 14 inches in length. All short fish must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. The ratio of shorts to keepers runs something like 4-1 while fishing offshore and 6-1 while fishing off the beach. For stripers, your fish must be 24 inches in order to be legal. Along these lower beaches, very few legal stripers are taken, although, every once in awhile, bass over 20 pounds are caught.

Fluke and flounder can be caught at both Hoffman's and Swineburn's islands. Another location where both can be caught is at Great Kills Park which is just south of New Dorp Beach. Being part of the Gateway National Recreational Center, you need a permit to park in Great Kills Park. The permit is free and obtained at the main office to the recreation center housed on Miller's Field, just off New Dorp Lane.

From here along the southern beaches to Tottenville, the prime species and seasons remain pretty much the same. Fluke, snapper blues, blueclaw crabs, porgies, weakfish and layfayettes, if available, are the easiest caught species. The prime beaches are Arbutus Avenue, Huguenot Beach, Seguine Point at Princess Bay and Tottenville Beach.

Well, remember Staten Island is nearby. There are many tackle shops and safe beaches to fish like Fort Wadsworth and Great Kills Park. There are many species to be caught in good numbers, too. So, if you haven't already given it a try, make the short drive from most Metropolitan area locations and scout around a little. I can assure you, you won't be disappointed!

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East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

East End fishing is rapidly building up to its world renowned reputation: last week's catches of flounder, weakfish, and a few fluke are the indicators of great times to come. Cod catches remain steady while some large pollock have moved in. Mackerel, squid, sand eels, bunker are converging upon the area, both in the ocean and the bays with hungry fish following!

MONTAUK

captain Mike Bock ran out of superlatives in describing the weekend's combination Nantucket/Georges Banks trip on the **Viking Starship**! Although the trip started with drizzly weather in Montauk on Friday night, anglers woke to great weather Saturday morning, with some wind in the afternoon. The night drop at Nantucket on Saturday night was in flat seas and had anglers fishing all night. Best estimates of the catch range from 1,000 to 1,200 total fish caught: cod, hake, wolffish pollock and a halibut. Statistics include: Robert Jojas of Glen Cove, NY who caught 60 fish, including a 40 lb. wolffish and a 25 lb. pollock, winning the pollock pool). The cod pool was won by Bill Braun of East Northport with a 45 lb. cod included in his catch of 31 fish. Ron Kaminski of Middle Village, Queens, took a 47 lb. halibut after a 20 minute battle, winning the split pool. (The halibut ate a clam bait.) Ron also had 37 other fish in his cooler. Second place split pool was taken by John Cataldo of Merrick, NY with a 42 lb. hake, the largest of his 32 fish.

Captain Bock reported that so many fish were caught at Georges Banks on the **Starship** that the anglers were willing to forego a drop at Nantucket on the way home. However, Capt. Bock "forced" everyone to fish for hake and some cod through the night. Daybreak found cod leaping on the bait.

Anglers taking this trip for the first time should be prepared with heavy duty tackle; tides can run strong, often leads of 32 oz. are necessary in depths of 160-260 ft. Bring your 4/0, even 6/0 rrels, spool up with 40-80 lb. test. To save your back and arms, a gimbal and harness should be part of your equipment. Take lots of clothes; easier to take them off in the heat of battle than to wish you had extra. Bring large coolers for your fish—86

MONTAUK POINT

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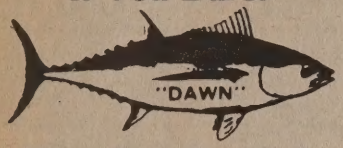

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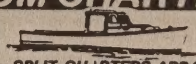

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Bill and Cynthia Ziesel of Bellmore recently rented a skiff from **Uihlein's Boat Rentals** and fished the inlet in the outgoing tide. They used worms and mussels with lots of chum to catch approximately 100 fish—keeping about 50 from 1 to 2¼ lbs. Mori Yoshinori and his friends, Knaaya, Wako, Takahashi, Iyoda and Iwasaki, all members of the Japanese-American Fishing Club of Flushing, rented one of **Uihlein's** large Proline's for a combination trip: 12 blackfish to 8 lbs., 15 codfish to 12 lbs., all caught at inner Cartwright, while 40 flounder to 2 lbs. were caught in a 40 min. peiod at the end of the trip in Lake Montauk.

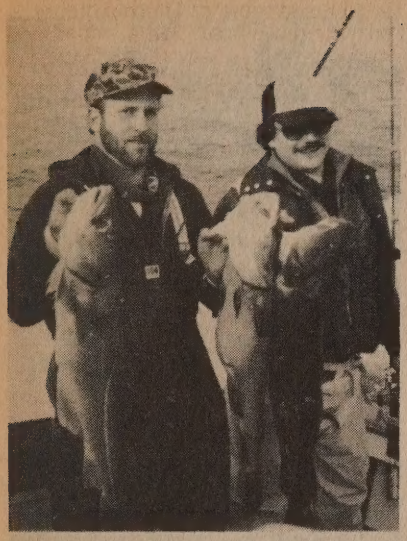
Maureen at **Gone Fishing Marina** reported that Capt. Bob Storc did well on codfish over the weekend. Friday's trip with John Sciaro and Gene Cebulski on the **Caprice** resulted in a good catch of cod to 30 lbs. fishing near Block Island, while on Sunday approximately 20 fish to 22 lbs. were caught. Maureen also heard for small flounder in Lake Montauk and rumors that some large flounder were caught at Tobaccolot Bay at Gardiner's Island.

Jim Grubb and his friend Doug MacVittie found codfish near the Block Island Hooter Buoy on Saturday. The fish, approximately 20, all under 20 lbs. spotted under working birds during slack water were boated on the "My Toy II."

Capt. Mike Albronde reported 53 codfish to 30 lbs., along with pollock over 30 lbs. caught on the charter boat **Montauk** with Al Elis of New Jersey on Monday. Sunday's trip with Kim Fochman resulted in 35 cod, some over 20 lbs. in weight. Although fishing was a little slow during the week, the weekend showed a lot of improvement. Early week cod were caught using bait, while on the weekend 90 percent of the fish took diamond jigs on the **Montauk.**

Captain Jay Rigano took the **Lori-Jay** straight to Coxes Ledge on Friday with a quartet of Mamaroneck policemen, led by Al Dopke. The group returned with 160 codfish. Captain Rigano stated that the size of the fish ranged from half of them under 5 lbs., the other half over 20 lbs., with top weight 30 lbs. On Saturday, the Bruce's Tree Service Group from Harrison, NY were hot into cod, boating 60, when the action stopped abruptly at 9AM for reasons known only to codfish. Larger fish were caught on Saturday, however with the average size 15 lbs., top weight 37 lbs. No pollock were caught, however, a few dogfish moved into the area. Bait and jigs worked equally well.

Captain John DeMaio reported uneven codfishing last week but with larger fish moving into the area. Tuesday's charter on the **Vivienne**



Mat Kessler and Paul Napoli with cod from 15 to 18 lbs. taken at Montauk on April 13 aboard the charter boat "Pronto."

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caught 31 cod, Thursday's charter 24—all large size fish. Sunday, however, Bill Dunn and his friends hit the jackpot, catching 25 cod of the largest kind—three fish in the 40 lb. range and the largest cod reported from Montauk this month—a 61 lb. steaker. Most fish on Sunday were taking diamond jigs with a Sekora red tube tied about 3 ft. above the jig, according to Capt. DeMaio.

Captain Fritz Hubner located large pollock along with cod this past week. Catches on the **Mistress Too** averaged anywhere from 18 to 49 cod per trip, along with 4-9 large pollock. Capt. Hubner reported large pods of sand eels in the area, however, since the bait is constantly on the move, there are no large concentrations of fish. Jigs, bait and trolling downriggers were all used with equal success. Sunday both cod and pollock (small) took trolled rigs. A few mackerel were spotted over the weekend.

Captain Michael Potts has been fishing south of Block Island everyday on the **Bluefin IV** and reports that fishing is excellent. 40 percent of his cod/pollock have taken diamond jigs this week, while 60 percent are caguth on bait. Monday's group with Mr. Pannunzio of NYC caught 34 cod, top weight 41 lbs. On Wednesday a group arranged by Mr. Dunn, returned wtih 15 cod to 20 lbs., along with two pollock to 30 lbs. On Thursday, the Krammers caught 57 cod to 25 lbs. plus one pollock while on Saturday, 32 cod and a pollock were caught. Capt. Potts averaged the fish(blackfish, cod and pollock) caught this season on the **Bluefin IV**, resulting in an average of 47 fish per trip, not bad!

Capt. Joe McBride will be fishing this coming weekend. The **My-Mate** has a few dates open for cod, pollock, blackfish and flounder. Call Capt. McBride for schedule and rates.

Capt. Chuck Mallinson reports a decent week of fishing on the **Joy-Sea**. Lots of bait around, but the fish moving a lot. Mackerel have moved into the area along with the pollock and cod. On Wednesday a group from the Rider rucking Co. Convention arranged by John Martin caught some nice cod and large pollock with the largest cod in the 30 lb. range. Saturday and Sunday Walt Coile and his friends from Pennsylvania caught enough cod and pollock to fill their coolers with tasty fillets declaring their two day fishing expedition an outstanding success.

Captain Phil Lewis asked me to elaborate on the Fisherman's Package offered by the **Adios**: During the month of May, except Memorial Day, a group of 6 anglers will have a day's fishing (cod, pollock, or flounder), overnight accommodations at the Zorba's Motel, breakfast at Salivar's, all for $80 per person. Box lunches can be arranged. The price, of course, does not include tips for the mates or waitresses. Call 668-5760 for reservations!

On Friday, Capt. Mike Bentevegna, Jr., **Pronto**, fished with Capt. John Richy southeast of Block Island for a great cod catch. The pair boated about 50 cod, the largest caught by Capt. Bentevegna was 32½ lbs. Two 15 lb. pollock were mixed in. On

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George and Anthony Linkus teamed with Charlie Coffie to make this fine catch of Moriches Bay flatties on April 4th. The trio fished out of Silly Lily Fishing Station in E. Moriches.

Saturday, Robert Lombardi and his friends fished the same area on the **Pronto** finding the fishing a little slower, but catching cod to 22 lbs. before the winds blew and caughed rough sea conditions. Capt. Mike reiterated every captains remarks about the bait moving constantly.

SOUTH FORK

The mates on the **Wilhelric** filletted flounder for over seven hours Sunday, best estimates of the catch range between 1,500 and 2,000 flounder caught. Most of the fish were taken at Pettys Bight (Orient(in deep water, with double headers a common occurrance. Captain Artie Lach stated that flounder catches from Monday to Friday were pretty good, however Saturday's winds seemed to put the fish off their feed.

East end reports from private craft, prompted Capt. Lach to make the trek to Orient on Sunday, where the flounder were waiting with open mouths and big appetites. The **Wilhelric** also made a drop at Gardiners Island where a few snowshoes were caught, the first of the season. Capt. Lach has heard of good catches of large flounder (3-3½(at Promised Land by his friend "Cowboy". Capt. Lach noted that the East End has come alive with bait, several squid were impailed and brought aboard on flounder rigs, as well as some mackerel and a lone sea bass! The **Wilhelric** will make it's first night weakfish trip on Wednesday, May 15th at 7 p.m. Circle this date on your calendar.

Chris Salb at **Bayview Marine & Tackle** reported good flounder catches during this past week. On Tuesday, Gene Hart and John Booney fished at Barcelona Point for 70 flounder. On Wednesday, a boat rental returned with 103 flatties taken at South Ferry. Northwest Harbor was the scene of the action on Friday where 90 flounder to 1¼ lbs. were found. On Sunday, Heinz Wiegleb and Janos Banai of Seaford fished Gibsons, using mussels and skimmers, chumming with clam chum for 52 flounder from 1½ to 2½ lbs. in weight.

Chris has heard rumors of large flounder caught in the Napeague Harbor area. Chris checked his logbook on last year's weakfish and mackerel catches, confirming that the fish usually are abundant in the area the second week in May. He has heard rumors of some weakfish caught in the Noyac Bay and a few mackerel around Jessups Neck during the past week. Be prepared!

A group of Salt Water Anglers, from Bergen County, N.J. checked into **Speck's Bait & Tackle** over the weekend. Zack Garipoli, Louis Potere, and Stephen Pilrum fished Promised Land for 25 flounder top weight 2 lbs. 6 ozs. Thom Speckenback heard of good catches of flounder on both Saturday and Sunday. A note: lilacs are blooming, be prepared for weakfish. Although flounder action in the Shinnecock Bay is still on the quite side, good catches of mackerel were made just outside the inlet, at the Sea Buoy, just a short distance out.

Stu Miller joined Walter Bohnenberger and John Licht on Saturday for a flounder trip to Promised Land, where the group caught about 4 dozen flounder using mussels and sand worms. Stu modestly confessed that, although he only used two fishing rods to Walter and John's three each, he proportionately outfished the pair. The boat pool was a tie, with Walter and John each landing a 2 lb. 5 oz. flounder.

Sunday, the pair (Walter and John) returned to the same area, this time with teenager Carl Licht, and boated 48 flounder. Area fished, Buoy 10.

Larry Manarillo had only a few rental boats out of **Corr's Mariners Cove** in **Hampton Bays**, catching medium size flounder near the Marina. However a marina based boat, "Horizon" made the trip to Gardiners Island on Saturday, fishing on the "east side". Owner Ed Pappas returned with 42 flounder, the smallest 2 lbs., the largest weighed by Rosemary Manarillo on the Marina scale was 5¼ lbs! Larry also heard of a few weakfish caught in the Peconic Bays and confirmed mackerel action

at the Sea Buoy outside Shinnecock Inlet.

Last but certainly not least, comes this report from Mickey Altenkirch of the first substaintiated weakfish catch of the season, and brought into **Altenkirch & Son** in **Hampton Bays** for weighing. Roger Kasper of Southampton was cruising around the Shinnecock Inlet on Wednesday, April 24th, spotted weakfish on top and quickly rigged a whole squid for bait. He caught three weaks, the largest weighing 15 lbs. 15 ozs. on **Altenkirch**'s certified scale. Canal fishermen be prepared, a few small fluke were caught over the weekend!

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

April closed out on a high note as the local fishing scene broadened considerably with the addition of blackfish, weakfish, mackerel and even some fluke and bluefish added to numerous flounder reports. Without any further adieu, lets get into the meat of this week's reports.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Andy Hegeman of **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** in **Eastport** said that flounder fishing had been tough during the week and was wiped out by Saturday's stiff winds. On Sunday however, catches per boat ranged from 15 to 40 flatties with most falling into the 1-2¼ pound class. Best fishing was at buoys 42, 45 and Haven's Point with the last couple of hours of incoming tide providing the best action. On Sunday, Dave Lohle and Charlie Deiaso took 36 nice fish at buoy 42. Same day, John Venagas and friend returned with 40 flatties from the same area just north of 42.

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** also reported slow fishing during the week and Saturday a blowout. Those anglers who stuck around for Sunday's Flood tide however found good action between Haven's Point and Hart's Cove. These boats managed between 30 to 60 flatties, all in the 1-2 pound range. Among them were Joe and Ron Entler. The pair took 70 flatties from 1-2 pounds on blood and sandworms. They used heavy mussel chum.

Rose Marie Fedorco called in to report the week's activity for the **Alma Fleet**. She noted that Capt. Ron

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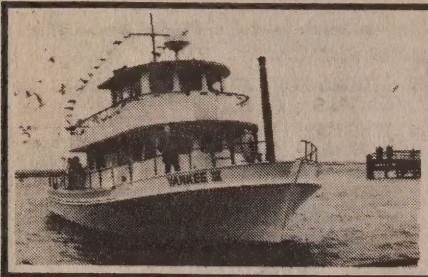

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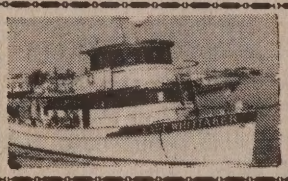

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Schleuter has been splitting his days between mackerel and flounder with very good mackerel results in the morning on both Saturday and Sunday. On Wednesday, six fares counted over 300 mackerel in just 1½ hours time. They used red and green tubes. Floundering showed improvement over last weekend with the warmer weather helping to raise bay water temperatures and settle down the fishing.

Billy Smith, George and Barbara Rogers and Alex Rodriguez and his son boated over 400 mackerel aboard the Pices on Saturday. The group fished 100' of water south of Moriches Inlet and checked their catch at **Tadsen's Fishing Station** by 11AM.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** reported some of his customers tried for weaks but none reported back with any tales of success. Of the flounder, Paul noted that the Davis Park-Barrett Beach area continues to hold fish while shorecasters do best from the Blue Point Dock. Paul looked over a catch of 40 nice flatties as well as a fluke taken from Moriches Bay by Helmuth Rich on Friday. He also had plenty of mackerel reports from the Sea Buoy outside Moriches Inlet. Mackerel were taken there during the week as well as on the weekend.

From **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**, Al Colban said he fished aboard the And How with owners Andy and Howie on Sunday. The trio did a good job on mixed sized mackerel including many in the 2-3 pound class. Fishing was done in 65' of water near the NB Buoy. Best flounder fishing in recent days seems to be in the vicinity of the Lighthouse on the mussel beds around the changes of tide and also at the Sore Thumb. Some fish also in West Channel. During the week, Dan Fanno and friends took 26 nice fish from the West Channel area. John O'Donnell and Pat Ballaro had 14 between 1 and 1½ pounds. Lots of talk of some weaks taken on rod and reel but no one stopped by with the evidence. That fishing should break loose by next weekend.

From **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip**, Irene Cioffi had a fine flounder catch to report from the Lighthouse area. On Friday, Ed and Mike Ryckman and Lou Mancuso, aboard the Victoria III took 80 flatties, in the 1-2¼ pound range on sandworms, clams and clam chum. Also on Friday, Christine and Ed Deutch took a dozen flatties from West Channel. The two largest weighed 1.5 and 1.7 pounds on the shop's scale.

A call to Sunrise Fish in Islip, custodians of Fire Island pound traps did not reveal any real surprises. Bunker and herring continue to make

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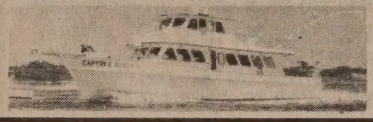

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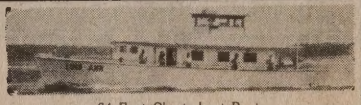

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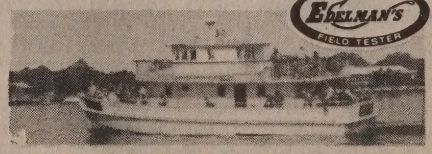

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up the bulk of the hauls. Mackerel catches diminished somewhat late last week and there is yet to be a big haul of weakfish despite the first hook and line catches.

Carl Miller of **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in **Bay Shore** didn't actually see a weakfish on the weekend but did hear from weakfish specialist Larry Ohler that he dropped a fish on Saturday while drifting a Jelly Worm in West Channel. One of two bluefish reports to reach us came from Carl. He reported that Tommy Rubes of Bay Shore caught 6 small blues in the Bay on tins late last week. Mackerel were solid outside the inlet with Mike Donovan taking 150 on Sunday fishing 70' of water east of the Inlet. Flounder fishing was decent particularly for those who worked Farm Shoals opposite the Lighthouse Sunday afternoon. There were also some nices catches of fish made in the Sore Thumb Pocket.

Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Casey Lee** said that flounder fishing improved considerably since last Thursday with some good shots at the fish being made along South Beach during the change in tide and in West and Dickerson Channels on moving water. On Thursday, Cathy Murphy had 27 fish. Seventy-one year old Ruth Donato combined Friday and Saturday's trips to take 42 flatties. Most have been good size fish in the 1-1½ pound range. Neil added that radio chatter indicated that at least a couple of weaks were taken on hook and line in recent days.

Noel Kappauf of **Captree Bait and Tackle** reported weighing his first weakfish of the season on Sunday. He thought the tiderunner, which was in excess of 11 pounds, was taken from the State Channel near the drawbridge. Due to all of the commotion caused by the Captree Seafest, no one was able to get the angler's name.

Open boat anglers have been leaving **Captree** with plenty of mackerel. Capt. Nick Manzari of the **Speedy VII** reported super fishing east of the inlet from the R M water tower to Point O' Woods. While the fish were found as close as 40' of water, the best fishing has been in the 70-80' depths with big Bostons predominating in the deeper water. Some tinker mackerel along with herring have been mixed with the Bostons.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** based **Capt. Scotty 3** reported excellent mackerel fishing on Friday and Sunday with a little tougher action on Saturday due to strong northerly winds. The fish are being found a short ride from the beach with action most days within 3-5 miles. Many of the macks have been large Bostons in the 2½ pound range but some small tinkers have been mixing in as well. Sunday's fishing was east of the Inlet in the vicinity of Point O' Woods. Radio chatter from boats to our south indicates more mackerel schools are on the way and the skipper is hoping

that the run will last a couple of weeks. Weather remains the big factor in the movement of these fish

Capt. Joe DiLiberto of the **Captree** charter boat **Prime Time** said that 26 members from the Woodside Anglers managed to do a fair job on the flatties on Saturday. Gale force winds made for difficult conditions. The best fishing of the day was found in the State Channel west of the Lindenhurst Cut. A drop along South Beach resulted in a half dozen blackfish in the 2-3 pound class being taken on flounder baits. Under better conditions Sunday, the skipper reported a nice pick of flatties along with a few blacks taken along South Beach near the Lighthouse around the turn of the tide. Joe also found a nice pick of fish in the Sore Thumb Pocket and reported most boats were doing a decent job on the fish. The skipper also reported seeing an estimated 8 pound weakfish taken by a private boatman who refueled at the Captree gas dock. This was on Sunday.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the open boat **Captree Queen** also noted an upturn in flounder action with fish dropping down into the deeper water areas towards the inlet. He reported decent action this week from the Clam Pond area, atop the mussel beds along South Beach and also in the Sore Thumb Pocket. Fish are mixed sizes and the first blackfish, fish to 3 pounds are beginning to mix with the flatties in the latter two spots.

A group of anglers from Bailey's Pub in Queens Village managed to do a fair job on the flatties during Saturday's charter aboard the Captree charter boat **Blue Albatross II**. Despite strong northerly winds, everyone aboard managed to take some fish. Matty Sullivan and Bobby Dnoia had nearly 30 fish between them to lead the way.

Capt. Richie Leitch of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Leitch IV** filed a report similar to what we heard from most captains. Decent flounder fishing with most boats now working the South Beach area at the turn of the tide and the Sore Thumb during moving water. A few blacks have been mixed with the flatties at the Thumb. As part of the Seafest celebration, Richie raffled off rod and reel outfits on both Saturday and Sunday. Gino Villaggi of Brooklyn was Saturday's winner while 12 year old Fred Schutt won himself a new outfit on Sunday.

Capt. Dan Pollera of the **Captree** charter boat **Capt. Dan** was satisfied with the weekend flounder results at the Sore Thumb Pocket and along South Beach. He noted that he had some good fishing during the week up in West Channel.

Capt. Carl Passero of the **Miss Captree** reported a marked improvement in the flounder fishing. He said that with the fish dropping down towards the inlet, most of the action has been close to the dock at the Lighthouse-along South Beach. During the week Norbert Freita took 42 flatties to 2 pounds. This was Wednesday. Same day, Sonny Angelico had over 30 flatties. On Thursday, Jack and Sabastian Randazzo teamed to take 60 flatties to 2 pounds. The skipper asked that we remind customers the beginning Friday, May 10th, the boat will sail daily from 6PM to 10PM for weaks and blues. Capt. Ken Higgins, who specializes in this type of fishing will be running the boat during these special evening trips.

From **The Store** at **Oak Beach**, Jim O'Neil told of seeing 3 weaks in the 7-8 pound class over the weekend. Two, taken by one boatman came from the Lighthouse area, the other was taken near the inlet. Jim was unable to get names in both cases but did see the fish. Of the local floundering, he reported shore fishing has been slow while boatmen have been doing a fair job in the Sore Thumb Pocket. Some fish also being taken in the State Channel opposite Oak Beach by boaters.

Tom Healy of **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon** was infested with mackerel reports on the weekend. The key seemed to be 60-80' of water with the direction making little difference. Several skippers reported some of the biggest mackerel they've ever seen—fish in the 3-4 pound class. Herring and tinker mackerel mixed with the big Bostons as well. The BCA charter boat Capt. Hook found a load of mackerel for the Mark Schwartz party on Friday. The fishing was done in 65' of water. Flounder continue to attract attention with Dr. Bob Teish taking 40 up to 1¼ pounds at the Sore Thumb on Saturday. Tom also told of good catches made along South Beach and the West Channel during the week and on the weekend. The open boat **Miss Babylon** skippered by Capt. Ralph Green found improved flounder fishing in some of the deeper holes of the State Channel. The skipper also reported a 16" fluke taken aboard the boat on Saturday. It too was taken in the State Channel.

From **Babylon Fishing Station**, George Stevenson chalked up Saturday as a lost cause due to the strong winds. He did send some boats out on Sunday. Glen Javett, James Milato and Mike and Jose Rinaldi teamed to take 30 nice flatties in the State Channel on worms and chum. John Borrello and John Deluca took an even dozen flatties from off Bergen Point. They were in the ¾ to 1¼ pound class. During the week, one local bayman stopped to show at least 50 nice flatties between 1 and 1½ pounds taken near the head of Snake Hill Channel.

Mike Andreani of **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** had our first striper tale of the year. It seems first time angler Elizabeth Torrez stopped by the shop Sunday morning and had Mike outfit her with a new outfit and some flounder rigs. She also took along a box of bloodworms. The lady angler chose Heckscher State Park for her first foray and stunned Mike with her reported catch of not only several flatties but a 24" striper as well. A quick reminder that no stripers may be taken until May 8th. This year's minimum size limit remains at 24". Flounder continue to get a fair amount of play though mackerel took a fair amount of the heat away. Mike reported a number of boatmen joined in the mackerel fray withthe best scores apparently made by those who got an early shot at the fish on Saturday before the winds came up. Sunday's best fishing was east of the inlet in 60-80' of water. On the flounder scene, Patricia Arnold of the Patricia A took 36 flatties at Fox Creek on Saturday. On Sunday, Bill Scotti and John & Bill Bogenschutz fished the same area and took 45 flatties. Most of these fish range from 1-1¼ pounds with a few larger mixed in. Chum played an important role in both scores. Bob Frank and his 4 year old son 'Great Ray' nailed 13 flatties south of Bay Shore on Saturday despite poor conditions created by a northerly gale.

Ralph Angelillo of **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** said that John Fravola ran his 'Happy Time' to an offshore wreck on Wednesday in search of cod. Instead, he and his crew returned with 14 big blackfish between 5 and 9 pounds. John Squillace had the 9 pounder. On Saturday, Bob Lamantia rounded up over 200 mackerel fishing in 65' of water SW of Fire Island Inlet. On Sunday, reports indicated the better mackerel action located to the east where whiting and herring were mixed with some of the mackerel schools. One boatman who preferred anonymity stopped by with over 1000 pounds of mackerel but more important, a pair of 4 pound bluefish as well. Ralph thought he had run far east for the fish. As for flounder, Farm Shoals opposite the Lighthouse seemed to be most productive to the east while Squaw Island and the Amity Cut produced some decent action for boatmen to the west.

Bob Vitale of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor** said that members of the Bay Village Rod and Gun Club had their annual flounder derby settled by Ed Peck's 1½ pound fish. Joe Dantuno did well enough with the flatties near the Lighthouse on Saturday. He had 35 to 1½ pounds. Of more signifigance were the 3 keeper fluke he caught while floundering. Also on Saturday, Barry Greenberg traveled only as far as the Tanner Park Dock to take a pail of flatties on bloodworms. Fred Walters put 25 flatties aboard his 'Reel Affair' at the Shore Thumb on Friday. On Sunday, Joe Stanzione and Lou Montalbano decked 50 flatties to 2 pounds at Squaw Island. Bob saw his first substantial blackfish score on Saturday. Don Lander showed him a bucket of 1-3 pound tautog taken at the Sore Thumb on skimmer clams. Mackerel fishing was good for most of those who went looking for them this week. The BCA charter boat Ida Jean ran to 65' of water SE of F.I. Inlet on Friday and had a couple of hundred 2-3 pound macks. On Sun-

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day, Tom Wiswall and Ken Schmeader, aboard the Lady Marion II loaded up on mackerel and reported red tubes were favored.

Marie Combs of **Comb's Bait and Tackle** in **Amityville** reported that there is still some fair to good flounder action at West and Squaw Islands and also at the Copiague Hole. Massapequa Cove is not without its quota either. Jack Link and Chuck Radl caught over 50 flatties here, 15 of which fell into the 1½ to 2 pound class.

It took us this far to get to the first bonafide weakfish report. Frank Pristera of **Edelman's** in **Farmindale** put weaks of 8¼ and 10 pounds on the scale for Tom Boylan. Tom also had a 3 pounder which he returned. All three fish were taken on Sunday afternoon's flood tide near West Island. Chubby Grubs in a motor oil finish turned the trick. Frank also had a fluke report. Bob Santiago nailed 4 keepers near the Lindenhurst Cut. Gene Pinta aboard his 'Bali' returned through the inlet with 300 mackerel and then added 17 nice flatties from the Sore Thumb Pocket on Saturday. On Sunday, Rich Ferri aboard the Rum N Coke had a load of mackerel in 70' of water south of the Robert Moses Tower. Heavy chum held the fish which ran in the 2-2½ pound range. 'Three's Company' skippered by Joe Ferrari did an excellent job on macks at Cholera.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

As we advance into spring the flounder fishing is settling down and becoming a fairly reliable item in the area with the possible exception of an off day here and there. Sizes remain good to exceptional. Good shots of mackerel were had this week mainly to the south and southeast of Jones. The macks are also an extremely large variety, up to 3 and 3½ lbs. but they are also roving schools of tinkers. Blackfishing is also starting at the local bridges, while the inshore wrecks are starting to yield blacks and sea bass.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

An erratic week was what **Pop's Fishing Station** called the last 7 days, with good fishing when the wind died down. Best catches were made on the east side of the Wantagh parkways on worm and mussel. Jim Sheehan, Bob Gleason had 50 flounder at Squaw. Jim Noller and two pals boated 106 good flounder while Dana Reynolds, Arnold Southerland, Dave Adderly and Jim Baker totaled 117 good flounder from 3/4 to 2¼ lbs. Best fishing was at the ends of both tides.

The word from **Wanser's Tackle** in Seaford is that Massapequa Cove was a hotspot this past week as was the third Wantagh, second Wantagh and Four Corners. There were lots of fish over 2 lbs. taken on mussels, worm and clam chum. The weekend's catches were classified as very good.

A call from Mike at **Causeway Tackle** in Wantagh spoke of weekend mackerel action from the J2 buoy out to 60 feet of water south of the tower and also around the BA buoy south of the inlet. Inshore wrecks have been producing blackfish, large sea bass and whiting. Blacks up to 8 lbs. have been caught this week at the Meadowbrook Bridge on fiddlers at slack water. Flounder were much better this weekend at Squaw, Massapequa Cove, state channel, east of Zach's Bay. Seventy-five flatties was the score at Massapequa Cove for John Duckboat fishing with mussels on both tides. Wednesday's score was 55 flounder in a heavy east wind for another customer fishing Squaw Island, fish to 2 lbs. on bloodworms on a flood tide. Richie Gross on Saturday had 60 fishing Zach's Bay and the state channel east of Zachs Bay. Joe and Ely boated 70 flounder up to 2

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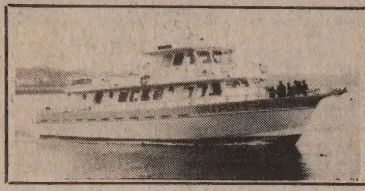

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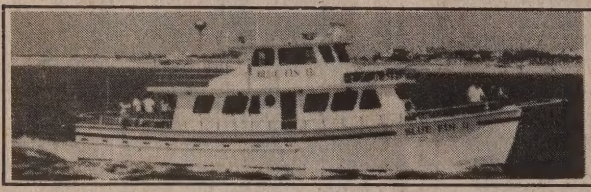

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lbs. fishing State Channel off Tobay Wednesday. Joe returned Sunday by himself for another 22 fish from 1½ to 2¼ lbs. on worm and mussel, both tides. Two short bass on sand worms was the score for Louie P. fishing off Smith Point Beach.

In Bellmore, Scott at **Merrick Tackle** has customers with several throwback fluke which they caught on spearing in Jones Inlet on the weekend, a sign of things to come. Mackerel to the south and southeast through Sunday and flounder just about everywhere throughout the bay on mussel, worm and clam.

We hear from **Garon's Tackle** in Merrick that while flounder catches have been up and down, the fish are very good sized. Blackfish now are also taking hold at the local bridges with fiddlers catching best. Mackerel were in close on the weekend but won't be around an awful lot longer. Kevin Wuerz boated 48 flounder at Merritt Point out of Nick's Fishing Station.

In the Freeport area we hear of mixed size mackerel with the weekend ranging from fair to good aboard the **Starstream II**, fishing southeast of the inlet as far east as Fire Island. Richie said he's been fishing about 1 hr 15 minutes from the dock with the macks very big.

Word from the **Capt. Lou Fleet** was of very good floundering all week on both boats. The full day boat had high hooks in the 40s and 50s all week. On Tuesday, regular Betty had 43. Wednesday saw John Paley with 40 and Tom Antonito with 41. Rudy Raeder and Lou Kaltschitz of Ridgewood totaled 68 between them. Thursday saw Herb Schwartz of Long Beach with 43 while on Friday regular Charlie had 44. Sunday saw Paul Nyitrey of Franklin Square with 49 and John Taska with 40 flatties. On the half day boat, Monday had a high hook in the 30s on the PM trip. Steve Speros of Levittown decked 31 including a 2½ lb. pool fish. On Tuesday, Vic Guarino of Elmont scored with a 3 lber. and Selma Needlemay of Bayside bagged 20 on her first trip ever. On Friday's AM trip Hy Brown had 42 and Sid Fien had 17. On Sunday a group from Brigadoon Bar and Grill, Uniondale, loaded up with over 100 fish and the Together Pub ladies bailed 104 flatties. Mike said these are quality fish and are being taken locally and running from 1/2 to 2¾ lbs.

A call from the charter boat **Capt. Joe** told of Saturday's trip for Paul Phillipson and the IBM Club of Jericho which did excellent in the AM in Reynolds and a few Freeport drops. Many anglers caught in the 20s on clam and worm. Sunday's half day PM trip fished the same areas and chumming heavily had an equally good catch.

Aboard the charter boat **Nan-Sea** Sunday excellent mackerel action was had once the fish were located which was at the NA buoy. It was a pick in the AM but the charter was bailing

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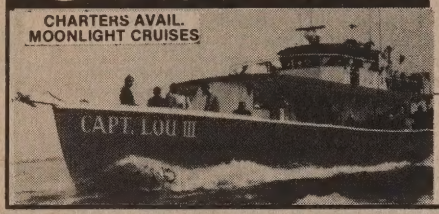

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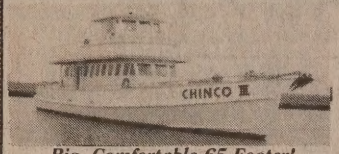

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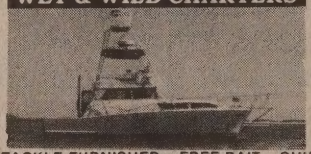

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fish by noon. Capt. Dan stopped on the way back on an inshore wreck and had blackfish up to 4 lbs. on green crab.

Word from the **Freeport Boatmens Association** was that the Association charter boats have been having great flounder action in the inlet and Garretts Lead and the boats mackereling have been doing very well also. The **Super Spray II** had been loading up on mackerel which have been very plentiful fishing east and southeast of Jones Inlet.

Captain Sy Karlin's **Blue Fin Fleet** had good mackerel action to the SE. Ed Goodwin of Hanover Bank walked off with a sack ful. The average catch was 1 to 2 5 gal. buckets a man, with fares having to cast, let the line settle, then retrieve. Flounder catches were good Sunday on fish to 2 lbs. Paul Radcliff of Mineola took the pool and it was tie for high hook honors between Bob Tallender and Chris Barbaro. Action was local on bloods, mussel and clam.

A call from the charter boat **Corsair** told of Saturday's trip for Walt Kaempfe group of the Bronx. Vince Bowen was high hook on flounder with the best area being Reynolds on mussel, clam and bloods. Catches very good said the skipper on fish to 1½ lbs. Sunday's trip for Gibson Athletic Club also pounded flatties. High hook was Ralph Salzano and the action was in Reynolds, Swift Creek, Shaffer Creek and Garrets lead. Thes fish were fewer but larger.

Captain Pat of the charter boat **Lady J III** had trips this week for the NYCTA, Maspeth Federal Savings Bank, Farmingdale FD, Assoc. of Retired police officers of Nassau Co. and the Bob Leo Group. They all fished flounder and trips ran from fair to excellent. Worm and clam seem to work best with best action in Garretts Lead, Reynolds and Squaw Island. An inshore wreck was fished Friday for Manufactures Hanover nd they had small blacks and sea bass from midgets to 1¾ lber.

We hear from the charter boat **Capt. Gary II** tells of Friday's trip for the NYPD Emergency Unit 1 which had a very good day on flounder. A 2¼ lber. took the pool for Mike Stapleton. Retired officer Bill Daughity bagged a 2 lber. while 47 was high hook for Louis Galarga. Saturday's trip for the Mill Knitting Mills also had very good flattie action in the Squaw Isl. area. Ralph and Rocky had 87. Winston Garcia took the pool with a 2¾ lber. On Sunday, Happy Hookers Fishing Club did very well on the flounder also with Ray being high hook with 46 fish. Serineville and Steve joined forces for 78 flounder while Fuzzy an Larry had 67. Frank Yenches and Ray Becersdorder tied for the pool with 2, 3 lbers. each. There were lots of throwbacks too said Gary. Worm and mussel was the trick with both tides working.

Over in Pt. Lookout a call from Capt. Dennis of the charter boat **Marie III** told of Saturday's trip for Great Neck post office having a fair pick in Reynolds Channel from Sloop to the Golf course on flounder 3/4 to 1 lbs. Mussel worked best with the last of the ebb most productive and fares having to work for their fish. Sunday's trip for Blackman and Shapiro Plumbing had Mike Barbarho with a 1¾ lb. pool winner. Joe Randazzo had 24 keepers and Mike Scarduzio with 21 keepers. Fish averaged 1 to 1½ lbs. and action was in Reynolds and Swift on incoming water, mussel and worms. Nine year old Brian Kearney had 18 good flounder. Dennis says he still has a few prime June fluke weekends available.

A call from the **Capt. Al** told of excellent mackerel action Thursday and a super day Friday followed by fair to good results on the weekend. The better anglers caught best said the skipper. The fish are very large and are only 40 to 50 minutes from the inlet. The boat's 4:30 pm flounder trips have been fair to good with Capt. Butch doing the honors. Best catches have been in Reynolds channel said Al, which is where the boat is docked. High hook Sunday PM was in the 20s with best action off the CG station.

Word from Capt. Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** told of an excellent flounder week with Eric Olson on Monday bagging 30 and Artie Hoffman 31. Thursday AM was very good with Bill B. hoisting 25 and Joe Sciremammano hoisting 27. On the

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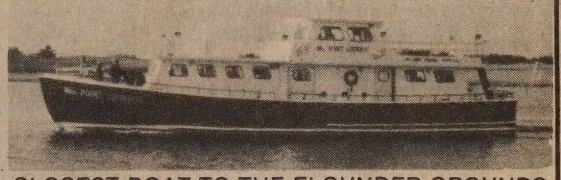

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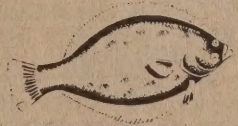

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PM trip, regular Fred had 25. Friday's AM trip had Eric Olson return for another 40 fish while Greg Nesbit took the pool with a 2 lb. 14 oz. fish. Saturday AM saw high hook in the mid 30s and on the PM trip Bill De Filippis of Long Beach took the pool with a 1¾ lber. Sunday AM Al Stephens had a 2 lber. and in the PM Peg Ross caught one weighing 3 lbs. on the nose. Best action has been on worm and clam bait in reynolds and Swift.

Word from the **Capt. Bill** also fishing half day trips weekends only had a strong Saturday AM trip catches 8 to 15 good flounder per man. Sunday's AM trip was almost as good. Edna and Dan Longo of Floral Park had 27 between them, while Spencer Thomas of Freeport had 42. Hal Kahn of Albertson was satisfied iwth 32 fish. Reynolds channel and Jones Inlet were the area worked for fish 3/4 to 2 lbs. mussel best.

At **Ed's Fishing Station** on Friday Melissa Noto and Rich Zangarillo had 45 flounder in Reynolds on bloodworms on the flood just west of buoy 17. On Saturday, Steve MacMahon, Ralph Whilbur, Steve Locasino of Queens had 110 flounder to 2 lbs. on sand worms and mussel chum at the loop bridge. J. Bataglia and 2 pals made 55 fish at buoy 18 on mussels and bloods at high water. Izak Kocuch

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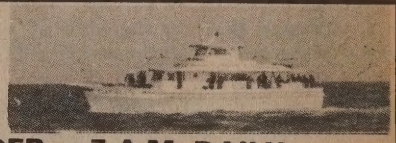

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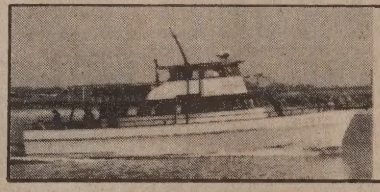

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had a 17 inch 2 lb. fluke taken on a spearing. A 6 lb. blackfish was cauht by Andy Boreyko and pals Tony and Pete, all of Ozone Park. They had 40 blackfish all told taken at the Big M on fiddlers at the end of outgoing and on the slack.

The word out of **Scotty's Fishing Station** was that of Barry Goudoras and Phil Grosso and their 63 flounder to 2 lbs. taken in Swift Creek on mussel bait and mussel chum. Phil is also leading in the station's flounder derby. John Dotzler and Ron Dozanga had 20 fish each on worm and mussel in Reynolds on the weekend. Ed Minikel had 20 flounder and one fluke to take home. Mackerel have been taken in 60 ft. of water being held wikth chum. Tom heard of gill netters taking some mixed catches of weaks, fluke and whiting during the week. Blackfish on the upswing at the Big m on fiddlers and greens.

Out of Island Park the **Commodore** tells of a good week of flounder with the only slowdown Saturday in the wind. Sunday was excellent. Saturday's pool went to Bill Fondulas with a 2½ lber. and 18 other flatties. Gertie Maeck had 21 fish. The pool on Sunday went to a 3 lb. 5 oz. flounder caught by Rich Reinhardt who also had 32 other flounder. Fred Bauer was happy with 29 and Phil Ross was quite satisfied with 37. Thirty eight fish was the score for Larry Edelman while Mike and Eileen Schultz had 69. Clem said slow drifting wasa the ticket and the best area was Reynolds Channel west of the trestle.

We hear from **Long Beach Boat Rentals** of a good week of flounder for the station's dories and Proline Fleet. Ed Myer and party had 37 from 1½ to 2½ lbs. at buoy 4. The rentals generally averaged 15 to 20 fish per boat with all fish large and chumming an absolute must. Blackfish caught at the ABB on the weekend as evidenced by Frank and Don Durando and their tub full both days on fiddlers at the ABB, fish to 3½ lbs. Magnolia Blvd. pier yielded a 15 inch fluke Saturday and a 14 inch striper Saturday also.

Over at Atlantic Beach, the report from **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** is of lots of flounder averaging 1.6 lbs. at the mussel beds just east of the ABB, off the Cedar Hurst yacht club and all through Reynolds. In the station's flounder tournament this weekend were Mel Siegal, 1.12 flounder, Cliff Follenius, 1.11 flounder and Fred Kazdin, 1.10. Good blackfishin at the ABB on fiddlers said Al. Friday saw great mackereling at buoy 4 but it tailed off to a pick on the weekend.

The word out of **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook is of excellent flounder action off the Pt. Lookout pier. Charlie

John Meerdink, Frank Reilly and Rick DeLucia used mussel chum and worms to catch this batch of flounder in Reynolds Channel. Photo courtesy of Ed's Fishing Station in Pt. Lookout.

Bauer of Rockville Centre on Saturday AM had 18 flounder from 3/4 to 2 lbs. on worm and mussel. Charlie said everyone on the pier had fish. Good bccs in the creek near Lilco in Oceanside alongside Pete's Clam Bar. A few fluke have been taken in western Reynolds and the blackfishing has started at local bridges.

NEW YORK BIGHT

From **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** in Jamaica Bay Vi tells of good flounder catches off both bridges and at the Silver Hole on mussel, clam and worm. Blackfish are in at all the bridges she said on fiddlers and greenies. Fiddlers accounted for a 7 lber. caught at the Marine Parkway bridge by Joe Binski and a 6¾ lber. for JohnWilson at the south channel bridge. Bunker are in and are all over the bay.

The Wee Willie report from **Mike's Tackle** in Sheepshead Bay across from the fleet tells of very good flounder fishing at Cedars and just off the jetty with fish being big. Mackerel were good Sunday for the boats, but poor Saturday with the Jersey side blackfishing remaining strong.

A call from the charter boat **Avatar** brought the mellow tones of Capt. Ed telling of good to very good flounder fishing locally. Fish have been running 1½ to 2½ lbs. A recent trip for Dr. Stu Kopp, the second most famous Bklyn fishing doctor (after Dr. Sherman) saw 50 big sea flounder to 2½ lbs. caught. Best catches are on mussels on the hook and in the chum pot. Fred still has some open dates available.

Word from Capt. Butch of the **Zephyr** was of very good flounder catches this week at the Tin Can and

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mussel beds about 1 mile due south of the jetty on fish 1½ to 3 lbs. Very few small flounder around said the skipper. Fares are catching anywhere from 5 to 40 fish a man and pools are all over 3 lbs. There are blackfish up to 4 lbs. mixed in. Butch said this kind of fishing should hold for quite awhile. Action has been on mussel and worm bait. Since the tide tends to really run in this areas, light conventional tackle is recommended.

A call from the open boat **Elsie K III** also extolled the flounder action which is just SE of the jetty roughly 1 mile off on some pet pieces. Big fish said Capt. Tom, with high hooks in the 20s and 30s every day and fish running 1½ to 2½ lbs. . Pools each day in the 3 lb. range. Tuesday's pool went to Frank Granville who had 25 fish and the 3.1 pool winner. Friday's trip had Earl Simmels and wife with 40 flatties to 2 lbs. 12 oz. Sunday was excellent with Ray Maly and John DeLuca hoisting 63 from 1 to 2 lbs. Fish were all keepers. All tides worked with mussel best and Tom agrees this should continue a few weeks more.

Aboard the **Betty W. III*** skipper Al Coley told of a good week and fair weekend on the macks. They were all big and there were whiting mixed in. Please note the boat will purposely be fishing for mackerel and whiting.

The **Dorothy B VII** has also been racking up very good flounder scores with a lot of 2 lb. fish being taken locally, just off the jetty.

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Carrell

Flounder continue at spring peak with isolated blackfish reports to the west. Blackfish have beaten the mackerel this year, but a couple of macs were apprehended by the party boat fleet on the Sound Friday, and hopes are high for the coming week.

WESTERN SOUND

John's Gun gave a similar flounder report as in the past weeks with good numbers locally. John Palmieri's group had almost a hundred flatties off Matinecock with 20 percent throwbacks in a small-boat-catch.

Jack's Bait on **City Island** spoke of flounder off Harts and the Orchard Beach Lagoon for rentals, and said that flatfish numbers continue to be "unbelieveable". Some tautog were reported by John DiCuffa off the CBS Tower, Execution Light, and Harts. The first Throgs Neck black fish were reported with some 2-5 pounders in the group.

Phil Nasi at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** described a showing of tautog in shallow waters off Morgans and Pryble with a couple of 3-4 pound fish. The shop is stocking steamers and frozen clam necks for blackfish specialists, too.

Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VIII** had a mackerel aboard on Friday and dropped another. Flounder, the principal target, were fair from Matinecock to Lloyds along the beach with top fish for the week around 1½ pounds. Best blackfish (among 2-3 daily) runs around 4 pounds.

Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** from **City Island** reported 15-20 flatties per person along the Bayville shore with most keeper fish in the ½, ¾,1 pound group. Best tautog this week went a solid 7 pounds.

Pete Anderson of the **North Star** was working the shallows off Bayville, Lloyds, and Huntington. He told us there were lots of small fish in some areas with a pick of larger fish in others. Sunday's blackfish, 10 in all, were mostly rats, but the pool fish went 4 pounds.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

The Valentines at **Four Winds** informed us that Billy Collins should be sailing on the **Ever Ready** next weekend, presubably with an open boat trip on Saturday and a charter on Sunday. Although Sound temperatures west of Huntington run 52 degrees or so, the water temperatures to the east are about 50. Jerry Cedar at **Huntington Prop** said that the Three F Fishing Club had pails of flatties from Asharoken with one fish that actually weighed 2½ pounds. Marshall Field had flounder too, and there were small fish in the bays and harbors. Gill nets around Centerport had mackerel.

Mel at **Greenlawn Sport Shop** said that Eatons, Duck Island, and Hobarts Beach at the tip of Sand City were the best local flounder spots. Tom Bowman at **Bowmans** told us that all spots had flatfish to 1½ pounds with Crab Meadow particularly good in 15 feet of water. Mussel chum and worms or red dyed clam were the combination of choice.

The **Caraftis Fishing Station** in **Port Jefferson** said that there were alot of large flounder along the shore from Oldfield Point and White Beach all the way to Rocky Point and Roanoke. A number of 2½ pound fish came into the station, and the best so far this season weighed 3.8. Good sized pieces of sandworms as bait with mussel chum and alot of banging on the bottom was the rule for the best results. Jay Gattuse at **Sutlers** said that a couple of large blackfish weighing 7½ and 8¼ pounds were registered on the bait shop scales. The shop will have crabs next week.

Stan Hentschel at the **Rocky Point Fishing Station** said that Hagarmans Landing was still a better spot than Shoreham. The real question was whether the flounder run would last another week or more or whether the larger fish would be moving toward the east. There were occasional short bass around the power plant, but one of the nicest surprises in recent days was a school of shad in the Sound around Northport. Flyfishing off the beach produced lots of 1½ pound, 18 inch shad, probably hickories.

NORTH FORK

Most private boats on the Sound around Mattituck Inlet were pulling 15-20 good sized flounder according to **Warrens**, but one boat out of **Mattituck Fishing Station** hit the mother lode near the pipe. Jim Warren, Dan Borrelli, and George Andreycisk had more than 50 flatties and one 8½ pound tautog. The largest flounder weighed 3½ pounds on the Caraftis' scales.

A weakfish was caught on rod and

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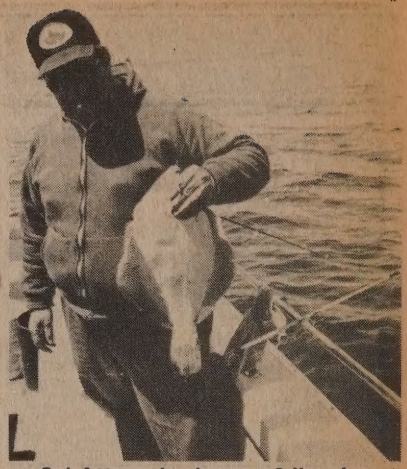

Sal Attanasio shows a 3 lb. plus flounder he decked at Gardiner's Island last spring aboard the Orient Point based "Prime Time II."

reel in the Shinnecock Canal on Thursday night, and the Western Bay had some decent flounder action around Buoy 8 and Simmons Point on incoming water. **Captain Martys** reports for the weekend were also good ones with dozens of flounder around Nassau Point and Roses Grove plus a few in the South Race. Temperatures in the bay are only 51 degrees, and mackerel ought to be in the area by this time: however there were no confirmed catches.

There were good catches on both sides of the Northville Pipe according to the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station**, but no blackfish reported yet by anglers fishing 15-20 foot depths.

A sharp little cold front came through the area on Saturday and resulted in winds to 35 knots out of the north, forcing many boats off the bay and the Sound. Nevertheless good flounder action continued on Sunday.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** was singing the Praises of Bug Light where a number of 2-2½ pound flounder were reported. White advised us that Ram Head and South Ferry were also productive.

Charters calling in results were Pete Izzo's **BoAnne** and Rod DeLisle's **Prowler**. Izzo had more than 100 fish to 2½ pounds for the Interboro Cab Company in deep water off the South Ferry Saturday, and DeLisle traveled around to the Sound for Roosevelt Brooks, and then with Bob Bertorelle and Tim Reeves. The catches ran 60-70 fish per charter with a few fish pushing 2 pounds.

Dave Brennan of the **Peconic Star** advised that "the Bight is back". The Greenport fleet got into Pettys Bight over the weekend and had catches of 20 or more per fare. Cliff Seitter of Tuckahoe and friends took back 65 flounder from the **Peconic Star**, and sizes were quite good according to Dan Buckley of the **Nancy Ann**.

(Continued on page 63.)

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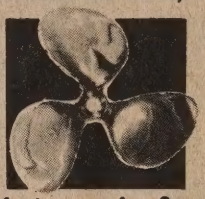

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How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	5:25	5:55	6:10	6:35	6:00	6:25	6:55	7:20	8:50	9:15	8:45	9:05	5:20	5:45	5/2
FRI.	6:15	6:45	7:00	7:25	6:50	7:15	7:50	8:05	9:45	10:00	9:35	9:55	6:10	6:35	5/3
SAT.	7:05	7:30	7:55	8:15	7:40	8:00	8:40	8:55	10:40	10:55	10:30	10:45	7:00	7:25	5/4
SUN.	7:55	8:20	8:45	9:05	8:30	8:50	9:30	9:45	11:30	11:40	11:20	11:35	7:50	8:15	5/5
MON.	8:45	9:10	9:35	9:55	9:25	9:45	10:20	10:35	—	12:25	—	12:10	8:40	9:05	5/6
TUES.	9:40	10:00	10:25	10:45	10:20	10:45	11:15	11:30	12:30	1:20	12:30	1:05	9:30	9:55	5/7
WED.	10:35	10:55	11:20	11:40	11:25	11:40	—	12:10	1:25	2:20	1:20	2:05	10:25	10:50	5/8
THURS.	11:30	11:50	—	12:20	—	12:25	12:25	1:10	2:30	3:30	2:20	3:00	11:25	11:45	5/9

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:		RISE:	SET:
THU.	5/2	4:56	6:59
FRI.	5/3	4:55	7:00
SAT.	5/4	4:53	7:01
SUN.	5/5	4:52	7:02
MON.	5/6	4:50	7:04
TUE.	5/7	4:49	7:05
WED.	5/8	4:48	7:06

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:		RISE:	SET:
THU.	5/2	4:24PM	3:46AM
FRI.	5/3	5:43PM	4:13AM
SAT.	5/4	7:04PM	4:42AM
SUN.	5/5	8:25PM	5:76AM
MON.	5/6	9:43PM	5:56AM
TUE.	5/7	10:53PM	6:44AM
WED.	5/8	11:52PM	7:42AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
4/20	4/28	5/4	5/11

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	2:40	9:35	3:45	10:00
Fri.	3:25	10:20	4:30	10:40
Sat.	4:15	11:10	5:20	11:35
Sun.	5:50	—	6:20	12:10
Mon.	6:55	12:40	7:30	1:15
Tues.	8:00	1:50	8:35	2:20
Wed.	9:05	2:55	9:40	3:25
Thurs.	10:10	4:00	10:45	4:30

The Fisherman's CLASSIFIED

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Send classified ad exactly as you wish it to read along with check or money order to: The Fisherman, Post Office Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963. Telephone: (516) 725-4200.

BOATS & MOTORS

SHAMROCK Keel Drive Inboard 20, 26 & new 17', 4 cyl. FWC 130 hp. Introductory Special-$12,495. SOUTH SHORE BOATS, 516-288-2400.

1973 17' MFG 1978 85 hp Mercury, 1983 Cox Tilt Trailer. Brand new top. New seats, carpeting. All in excl. cond. Great for fishing & skiing. Lots of room. Many extras. Asking $3295. 914-738-3809.

24' SLICKCRAFT 1975 Cuddy Fisherman. 888 Mercruiser. Low engine hrs. Fast, economical. Rigged for fishing. Incl. electronics & Porta-Potti. Excl. cond. $8900. Eves: 516-489-4923.

---

84 ARROWGLASS 18' center console, 90 hp VRO Yamaha, PTT, SS Prop. HD trailer, Bimini, CB, FF. Extras; 20 hrs. $10,400. Days: 516-673-2309. Eves: 516-467-0627.

1965 CHRIS CRAFT 28' Twin 6 cyl. Hercules. Motors must be modified to fit boat. All chrome replated. Boat looks like new. Will trade for 18-21' fiberglass boat, motor, trailer. After 6PM: 585-2552.

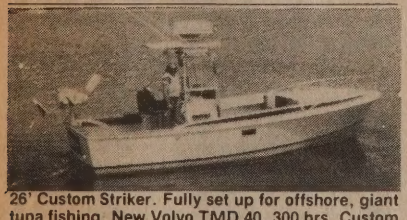
EVINRUDE

NEW 1984 EVINRUDES 1984

2-$312; 4-$496; 6-$680; 8-$780; 9.9-$998; 15-$1100; 35-$1500; 50-$2295; 70-$2690; 90-$2830; 115-$3300; 140-$4200; 150-$4250; 185-$4600; 235-$5200. ELECTRA MARINE, INC., 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. WI. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere. MERCURY OUTBOARDS. New 1983-1984. Phone quotes.

25' BLACK FIN "Combi" Fisherman, 1978, 270 FWC Crusader. Loran, VHF, chart recorder. Water temp, outriggers. Low hrs. Excl. cond. $23,000. Days: 516-249-8414. Nights: 516-481-7475.

28' PICKERELL V-bottom Sharpy, steering console, 150 hp Mariner O/B. All open w/plenty of room for work or pleasure. Big & fast. Call after 4PM: 516-725-3267. $9500.



26' Custom Striker. Fully set up for offshore, giant tuna fishing. New Volvo TMD 40, 300 hrs. Custom trailer. This boat has it all. DAWN, 516-668-9056.

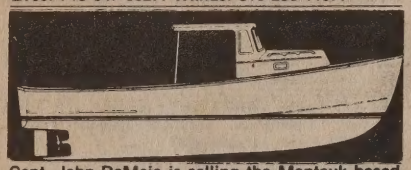
WANTED: Johnson Evinrude Outboards. Any cond. Will pick up. Used parts available. 516-981-6487.

All 1985 EVINRUDES—Sale prices w/extended warranties. MARINELAND, Long Beach, 516-889-5000.

GRADY WHITE 24' 1981 Offshore, tower, encl, 235 hp Johnson. Trailer; Loran; compl. electronics. Winter cover. Many extras. Offers. 516-581-1133.

1982 22' GRADY WHITE Walkaround cuddy, 1982 200 hp Evinrude, VHF, depth finder. Other extras. $17,000. Days: 201-829-7695. Eves: 201-461-8670. Ask for Al.

1978 CHRIS CRAFT Lancer 23', 250 hp, Volvo I/O. Pipewelders tower. Rigged for fishing. $11,500. Eves: 718-347-6527. Wknds: 516-283-1197.



Capt. John DeMaio is selling the Montauk based charter boat VIVIENNE. A 1980 30' Repco hull made of solid fiberglass w/353 Detroit Diesel engine; 3 GPH cruise. This proven fishing machine is in perfect working order & is presently fishing. Compl. boat a bargain at $23,000. New boat on its way. Must sell by end of spring. 516-668-5130.

30' SEA Ray 1979 Weekender, 330 hp Mercs. T/T, VHF, CB, recorder.
Striker 1977 - 37' aluminum, half tower. Full fish catchin' boat, teak cockpit, twin 671Tis. Radar, Loran, VHF, temp. Bridge, release riggers.
Uniflite, 1974 Salty Dog w/pipewelders full tower. Twin 225 FWC Chryslers, Loran, water temp, auto pilot, VHF, CB. Good well built offshore fishing machine.
1976 Bertram Flybridge, T-454 FWC. Outfitted for serious fishing.
SEA JAC BROKERS, 516-728-4220/6627

20' RENKEN 1980 cuddy cabin, 200 hp Volvo V-8, 305 cu. in. Chevy eng.; 280 outdrive & FW rinsed. All new canvas, TT, VHF, depthfinder, Stereo, Porta-Potti. Compass, dual batt. & more. Excl. cond. in both running & appearance. Ready to go! $7600. 212-892-7857.

1968 "23" Uniflite, 225 Chrysler, FWC, new 1981, 400 hrs. Brand new trans, new Morse steering, dual batt., TT, elec. winch, auto bilge, spare anchor, spare prop, Si-Tex 256, CB, VHF. Full canvas. $6000. After 5PM: 718-961-1598.

1981 AQUASPORT 200XF, 1982 200 hp Mercury, compass, depth finder, CB. CG Pkg. $14,500. Eves: 516-298-8290.

1982 22' GRADY WHITE Tournament 2.6 liter OMC Sea-drive. Low hrs. Custom canvas, dual batt., SW washdown, digital depth finder, 95 gal. fuel, hydraulic steering. Warranty. Priced to sell. 516-741-2174. 516-728-4730.

CRUISERS 1979/1980 22', Barnegat, 228 I/O, DF, VHF. CG Pkg. $9900. 516-379-6844.

MUST SELL: WELLCRAFT 20' Deep V Fisherman center console, 140 hp I/O Mercruiser. Full instrumentation. Many extras. Excl. cond. With trailer. $6500. 516-621-3022.

27' SPORTCRAFT, family, 1982, Turbo 260 Volvo Penta diesel. Economical 300 hrs., VHF, digital depthfinder & speedometer, AM/FM stereo cassette. Many extras. Excl. cond. Eves: 718-699-9045. Days: 212-838-4316.

40' Chris Craft Flybridge Sedan, wood
38' Striker 671Ti
38' Elco Aft Cabin Pilot House Cruiser
17' Boston Whaler, 190 hp. Fish rigged
45' 1973 Hatteras, tower, awlgrip, 871 Tis, Fla.
26 Bonita I/O 233 hp
31' Bertrams; several available
30' SeaRay Weekender
2 - 28' Luhrs Sedans - fiberglass
28' Uniflite Salty Dog, twin gas, tower
24' Aquasport, I/O, cuddy + outboard
23' Sea Bird, twin I/O
23' 236 Mako, 235 Evinrude, Loran
22' Penn Yan, flybridge
21' MFG, open sport
Brokerage—Insurance: Yacht delivery, donations Call SEA JAC BROKERS, Jackson's Marina, 516-728-4220/6627. Tom or Chris.

1981 EVINRUDE 200 hp. Used 2 seasons. New water pump. Mint cond. $3300. Eves: 718-634-9250.

1968 CHRIS CRAFT Lancer 23', glass 225 hp, Volvo I/O. Rigged for fishing. $5000. Eves: 718-347-6527. Wknds: 516-283-1197.

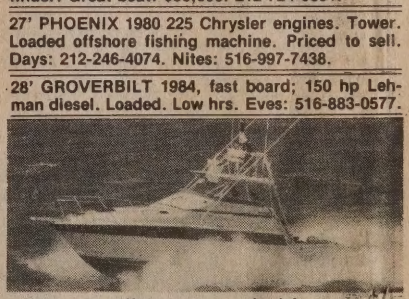
JOHNSON 84s & 85s. Get their price—then ours. No gimmicks. Save $$. SEALAND, 516-541-6950.

1981 Century 5000, 23', 228 Merc. Less than 100 hrs. Full canvas & electronics. $15,200 Neg. After 6PM: 516-546-2879.

'83 AQUASPORT 286XF, twin 255 Commanders, FWC, 4 batt., TT. Full canvas cover, macerator, engine sync, X-15 recorder, Maxi VHF, depth finder. Great boat! $53,000. 212-724-3851.

27' PHOENIX 1980 225 Chrysler engines. Tower. Loaded offshore fishing machine. Priced to sell. Days: 212-246-4074. Nites: 516-997-7438.

28' GROVERBILT 1984, fast board; 150 hp Lehman diesel. Loaded. Low hrs. Eves: 516-883-0577.



LUHRS 340—offers more standard features than any other Sportfisherman in her class, including the welded aluminum tower, compl. w/console. In Stock. Also dealers for Sportcraft—IMP—OMC Sea Drive; OMC Stern Drive; Johnson; Mercruiser. SPELLMAN'S MARINE, 1708 North Hwy, Southampton, NY 11968; 516-283-7907.

USED PARTS

Large inventory, reconditioned Evinrude, Johnson, Mercury, OMC sterndrive. Lower units, housings, gears, blocks, starters, power packs, props. KELLY'S OUTBOARD WORLD INC., 516-567-3417.

STARCRAFT

1985 12-26' Aluminum skiffs, consoles, cuddys, DAVE BOFILL MARINE, 790 North Hwy, Southampton, NY 516-283-6736

Continued On Next Page

MAKO
AL GROVER'S • (516) 379-7100
EVINRUDE
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BOSTON STYLE
WAHOO!
AL GROVER'S • (516) 379-7100

20' MAKO 1982 150 hp, Hyd. steering, 90ch VHF w/scanner, 500 W recorder; Loran C, Ste Temp. gauge, stainless steel prop; 2 brand new 85 amp Surrette batt. Many extras. Very good cond. Will demo. Best offer. Eves: 516-239-2477. Days: 516-431-0399.

POINTER—Maine Built; nothing fancy. Just quality. Self-bailing Sportfish, commercial/utility. 18' utility hull only $3995. 21' utility hull only $5595. 21' offshore Deluxe, console, bunks, canvas, rails. $9495. On display WHITE WATER MARINE, Sayville 516-589-2502.

1983 GRADY WHITE Tarpon 19' 115 Evinrude, PT&T, DF, compass, VHF. Full canvas. Downrigger. 1985 Cox EZ Load Trailer. 324-0220.

1974 19' PENN YAN cuddy, 115 hp Johnson PT&T. Full canvas; electronics, riggers. Breakaway trailer. After 6PM: 516-324-3458.$4500.

1976 26' STAMAS FBSF, 2/6 cyl. Chrysler I/Bs. New canvas & electronics. Very clean boat. Can be seen in Plainview. $21,900 Negotiable. 516-822-2559.

42' USCG Inspected Vessel, 36 pass. capacity. Drydocked May '84. Now fishing daily. $25,000. After 7PM: 516-475-0604.

ONLY $6395!
18' STEIGER CRAFT, 50 hp Mercury elec. start. 21' model also avail. Commercial & pleasure models. MARINELAND: Mattituck, 516-298-4020. Long Beach, 516-889-5000.

17' Center console, 75 hp Mariner. Water ready. $6200 BAYHEAD MARINA, "In the Head of Jamaica Bay," Rosedale, NY 718-525-5724.

BOAT TRAILERS: EZ Loader. All sizes in stock. Immediate Del. Priced right. SEAHORSE TRAILER, Glen Head, NY 516-676-5313.

CHRIS CRAFT 28' Sea Skiff, 185 hp FWC rebuilt. Low hrs. T/T, VHF, CB, Stereo, dual batt., SW washdown. Custom chairs; stand-up head. In water, Pt. Lookout. Ready for season. Excl. cond. New boat here. $5300. Dave, lv. Message: 516-599-3864.

CHRIS CRAFT Lancer, 1973 23' I/B 235 hp eng. Rebuilt last year, new manifolds. Cuddy cabin, Potti, full canvas. CG Pkg., VHF, depth finder. Excl. cond. Ready to fish. $6800. Located in Bay Shore. Chris, Days: 212-535-0520. Eves: 212-254-8133.

27' PHOENIX 1980, twin 228 Chryslers FWC. Low hrs. Custom tower, chair, Furuno radar, ML5500 Loran, 2 VHF, Lowrance recorder, sea temp. Much, much more! Like new. $49,500. Eves: 516-997-7438. Work: 212-246-4074. Wknds: 516-267-3371.

1979 SHAMROCK Cuddy cabin, 225 hp engine. Full canvas, 2 depth finders, swim platform. Great offshore boat. Asking $11,500. Call: 727-3115.

LIKE NEW
33' CONCORDE Custom refinished & updated in '83. Only thing original is her hull. Completely rigged for the serious fisherman or cruising. Work & equip. too numerous to list. Call for details. $58,000. Days: 516-744-1707. Eves: 516-587-4029.

GROVER 26 1977 6 cyl. Ford, rear controls, Si-Tex. $22,000 Firm. After 6PM: 212-885-0523.

1979 GRADY WHITE 24' Weekender. Mint cond. 235 hp I/O low hrs. New outdrive, dual batt, T/T, Loran, depthfinder, compass, canvas. Shoreline EZ roll trailer. Asking $16,500. Eves: 516-878-1961.

1983 25' SEA DEVIL 2.6 Litre V6. Used one season. Trim tabs, wash pump, twin batt. Full canvas; DF, VHF, Si-Tex CR. Much more. Must sell; new boat coming. 567-7905. 798-4747.

Pair 350 CI 250 hp. Full FWC engines & transmissions. Low hrs. Excl. Demo; warranty. Offers. 516-825-2222.

TOPAZ 28 1976 Twin 233 FWC Mercruisers, Loran, VHF, fishfinder, T/T, swim platform, winch, SW Washdown, fight. chair. More. Clean. $22,900. 718-667-1804.

1973 Imp Inca 23' Flybridge. Fully equip. 225 hp. In water. $6900. 212-653-1305.

CHRIS CRAFT Fisherman 25'x10', twin 130 hp I/Bs FWC. Electronics, hydro steer, T/T. More. Must sell. $16,000. 718-634-9483.

SEAWAY BOATS 17-26 center & cuddy. Commercial & Pleasure O/B I/O Inboard. VILLAGE MARINE, 516-298-5800.

RENKEN 80 17' Bowrider, 120 FWC Volvo, w/Galv. trailer, P/Winch, DF, CB, compass. Garage kept. Mint. $6700. 516-795-4269.

Save on your next Sportfisherman. Great selection at South Florida prices. NAUTICAL SERVICES YACHT SALES, 305-832-3230.

23' CORRECT CRAFT center console I/B. T-top, canvas, electronics. Offshore rigged. Trailer. $17,000. Eves: 516-399-2681.

21' CRUISER INC., '76 cuddy cabin, VHF, depthfinder. Complete new canvases. Stereo radio & tape; Porta-Potti, ice box, fish wells, swim platform. Auto bilge pump, 200 hp Johson w/PT&T. Low hrs., Dual batt., 55 gal. gas tank, galv. trailer w/electric winch. Excl. family & fishing boat. Many extras. Immaculate cond. $9000. 516-775-6303.

19' STARCRAFT Alum. Hardtop, 110 hp Mercruiser I/O. Shoreline Trl. Rigged for fishing. Excl. water-skiing. $2500. 516-334-1886.

IS IT TRUE you can buy boats for $43 through the U.S. Government? Get the facts today! Call: 312-742-1142, Ext. 7161.

26' GROVER BUILT 1978 120 hp Lehman diesel, 450 hrs. Teak decks, Si-Tex recorder/flasher, digital depth, VHF, outriggers, 1½ gal/hr cruise. Ready to go. $25,000. 516-324-1241.

LIKE NEW: 1977 Evinrude 200 hp O/B motor, w/power tilt & trim, full harness & stainless steel prop, new water pump. Low hrs. Asking $2590. 516-289-0752.

28' BERTRAM 1980 Sportfisherman, twin 228 hp Mercruiser, FWC. Loran C, VHF, CB, Si-Tex depth recorder, outriggers, downriggers, live baitwell. Much more. $55,000. 718-428-9558.

CRUISER INC. 22' 165 Merc I/O. Full cabin, VHF, DF. New seats & canvas. $5900. 538-3731.

21' HYDRA SPORTS center console, 200 hp Mercury O/B, ice chest, T-Top-$14,995; 24' Hydra-Sports, cuddy cabin, 200 hp Yamaha, Hydraulic steering, pulpit, ice chest, canvas. Many extras-$17,995; 25' Hydra-Sports, center console, 2-150 hp Yamaha O/Bs, hydraulic steering, Washdown, recirculation system, tackle compartment-$24,950; 25' Hydra-Sports, center console, 220 hp Yamaha O/B. Extras-$19,950. BAYSIDE MARINE & AUTO, 1227 Horseneck Rd., Westport, MA. 617-636-5844.

1983 CHAPARRAL 19' 3'' Beam 8' Bowrider 115 hp O/B Merc. PT&T. 30 hrs. Purchased new 1984, SS Prop. Full canvas. Like new. In water; will demo. $8900. Days: 718-366-7191. After 7: 516-223-8676.

1985 Grady White 204C new, 83 150 hp. Demo, warranty-$15,965
1983 Grady White 206 Islander, 2.6 ltr sea drive 20' 4''. Loaded, lo hrs.-$20,500
1980 Grady White 204 fisherman, 20'4'' 150 hp John. galv. trailer. Loaded-$12,950
1981 Grady White Wahoo 25 255 Mercruiser inbd, full Sw pltform-$24,900
1982 Grady White Bimini, 200 hp Johnson 22' loaded fast boat-$19,500
1981 Grady White Tarpon 18' 11'', 100 hp P/T, camper top, navy top-$8950
1984 Grady White 242 Offshore 24' 2.6 ltr sea dr. Loaded boat-$24,000
1983 Privateer c/console 18' 70 hp Johnson. Loaded boat-$8995
1982 Sportcraft c/console, 1984 Johnson 70 hp T/T. ext. available warranty-$7800
1983 Dell Quey dory 13', 83-35 hp Johnson, custom canvas, swivel seats-$4300
1982 Renkin 21' cuddy OMC 140 hp I/O. Sleeps 3-$9950
1983 Dell Quey, new. 11', console. Boat only-$1770
1984 Baja 16' boat only. Any motor combo-$3600
1980 Chris Craft Scorpion totally recondition 21', 188 Merc I/O-$13,995
1965 Chris Craft 15' Boat only; any motor combo-$850
1968 Sea Ray 17' Refurbished. Boat only. Any motor combo-$1795
1979 Mark Twain 19' OMC 200 hp I/O-$5000.
1984 Grady White 24 Offshore leftover. New. 200 hp Johnson new-extras-$23,995.
Lots more new & used boats available. Cross over the bridge & save.

EDDIE'S MARINE SERVICE CORP., 210 Bch. 2 St., Lawrence, NY 11691; 718-327-3168.

SEA RAIDER 17', 75 hp Mariner. Both brand new! $6299. Water Ready. BAYHEAD MARINA, Rosedale, NY. 718-525-5724.

AFFORDABLE BOATS from 19'-23' suitable for work or Hard Play! OCEAN SCOUT BOATS, P.O. Box 73, Bristol, RI 02809. 401-253-4176/9196.

WELLCRAFT V20 cuddy, 1985 Evinrude 115, 1984 Cox EZ Loader Trlr. Very clean rig. $10,000. 516-369-2790.

GYP SEA 33' Concorde '76 Fisherman's dream. Mom will also love. Another boat coming. Must sell. Fully equip. Ready for giant tuna. Bring rods & toothbrush. Beer already on board. Boat in Eastern L.I. John, 201-865-4741.

1983 BOSTON WHALER 17' Montauk, 70 hp Johnson, tach., compass, canvas. CG Pkg. Galv. trailer. Eves: 516-669-2231.

EVINRUDE
NEW 1983 MERCURY
3.5-$399; 4.5-$590; 7.5-$700; 9.8-$875; 18 electric-$1200; 25 electric-$1350; 40-$1200; 115-$2900; 150-$3795; 200-$4295. FOB/H WI. We ship anywhere. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563.

1973 MARLIN, Aluminum trailer. Full mooring cover. Excl. cond. $2500. 516-277-5185.

1979 F.L. TRIPP 22' Complete Angler, 305 C.I. FWC I/B. Forward & stern controls, DF, VHF. $12,900 Negotiable. After 6PM: 765-5675/5395.

1983 25' SEA DEVIL 2.6 Litre V-6. Used 1 season. Trim tabs, wash pump, twin batt. Full canvas; DF, VHF, Si-Tex CR. Much more. Must sell; new boat arrived. $21,500. 567-7905. 798-4747.

SEA CRAFT 23' Sceptie 1980. New 1985 200 hp Merc, 1984 25 hp Merc. Loaded w/extras: Full canvas, 110 gal. gas tank, Porta-Potti, SW washdown, live bait well. Electronics: Micrologic Loran, Raytheon & Motorola VHF, X-15 Lowrance & Si-Tex depth finders, Dytek sea temp, Johnson Cb. Shoreline EZ roller trlr w/power winch. Boat in mint cond. A proven blue water record maker. Must sell; new boat has arrived! $21,000 Neg. CAPT. CHARLES TOTA, Nina, 516-266-2769; 718-721-0064.

1982 GRADY WHITE 224 Offshore, 225 Mercury OB. Very clean. Low hrs. Apelco radio & chart recorder. Full loaded. Price to sell. $18,500. Eves: 914-476-3370.

23' 11" FORMULA. New engine. Rebuilt Volo Outdrive. Loran, depthfinder, VHF, CB, white line recorder. Hyd. trim tabs, 15' outriggers, compass. Bimini top. Canvas top & side curtains; 7 rod holders. $10,000. 516-368-3852.

38' 1979 BERTRAM Flybridge convertible, lower steering sta., 555 Cummings, 875 hrs; 7.5 KW Onan radar, VHF, depth, log, fish finder. Never fished. Good cruising boat. Not rigged for fishing. $150,000. Call Al Lunt, 305-832-5868.

20' WELLCRAFT center console, deep V hull, new canvas. New DF, CB & more. Mint. Needs motor. $5400. Eves: 718-376-2796.

ELECTRONICS: VHF, CB, Outriggers, 40' Bridge release-$700. Mufflers 6"-Offers. Deck Box, big one. 516-728-6627.

1977 23' ROBALO center console, twin 115 Evinrudes, T-top, recorder, VHF, outriggers. $11,000. After 5PM: 516-324-3451.

34' DOCUMENTED Charter Boat, twin FWC 318 Chryslers compl. rebuilt. All marine parts new. Fully equip; all electronics fully guaranteed. Full Bimini encl., 3 chairs. Compl. refastened 1984. Hull & eng. guaranteed. Buying bigger boat. Bargain $8000/best offer. Full winter cover. Fully rigged for fishing. In water; ready to go! CAPT. JOE MC BRIDE, 516-588-1227/668-5995.

30' ULRICHSEN 1962 Sportfisherman, 250 hp Chrysler FWC, flybridge, dual controls. Outriggers, VHF, depth finder, 2 compasses. Dual batt., bilge pump, stand-up head. Sleeps 4. Many extras. In water; will demo. $4800. 212-625-0334.

1976 27' SPORTCRAFT cuddy Fisherman, 235 hp OMC I/O. Dual batt., portable head. Electronics incl. Excl. boat for fishing or family use. $11,500. 929-6746.

20' MANNINO V-sharpie center console, glass/wood 85 Mercury 2000 lb. trailer 1977. Mint work/fish machine. Extras. $3500. Eves: 744-4389.

26' GROVER BUILT 1979 120 hp Ford Lehman diesel. Low hrs. Loaded. Very economical to operate. Set up for long range fishing & cruising. 516-354-2674.

32' LUHRS Flybridge, Navy top, dual stations. VHF, CB, PA, Intercom. Fish finder, comps, sleeps 6. Head, galley, refrig., electric stove, power winch, gin pole. Many extras. In water & ready to go. CAPT. CHARLES AYERS: 1-516-488-2245. 1-203-964-1175.

1978 29' PHOENIX Sportfisherman, FB. Repowered 1984. Lee outriggers Jr., Pompanette fighting chair. Full FB encl. VHF, CB, DF. $38,900. After 6PM: 676-9887.

CRUISERS 78, 21'. New canvas, 140 Merc. Just totally rebuilt. Trailer, elec. winch, VHF, White line recorder. Reasonable. Call any time: 354-7624.

1982 AQUASPORT 20' Walkaround 150 Merc, PT, electronics. Bimini; EZ Loader trailer. Excl. $14,500. 914-762-1345 Aft. 5. 516-728-4506 Wknd.

OMC Electric Shift I/O drive, 1971; 307 cid Chev, 215 hp, FWC, 1975; 340 gentle hrs. Like new. Compl. w/controls, tach, gauges, 3 props, taken from 233 Formula. Pkg. ready to drop into your boat. $3500. Bill: 516-722-4150.

TOPAZ Fisherman, 1977, 24' center console, cuddy cabin. Excl. cond. Custom Bimini, 233 Merc FWC, 700 hrs. Wkdays: 212-893-0600. Nights: 914-738-4057.

1977 26' STAMAS S.F. 270 Crusader. New 83 FWC, elec. anchor. Mecca recorder, CB, VHF, Hailer, shorePower, washdown, dual batt. Loaded. 516-727-4810.

1981 SPORTCRAFT 17' center console w/trailer, 1980 Evinrude 70 hp, DF. Much more; very clean. Must sell. $5500. 718-426-2829.

SEARS 7 hp O/B. Runs well. New carburetor. Recently tuned. $250 Negotiable. Eves: 516-796-1809.

AQUASPORT 22-2 Family Fisherman w/200 hp Evinrude. Both 1976. Lowrance recorder, VHF, custom canvas. Extras. Well kept. $9500. Eves: 516-661-1591.

28' 1979 80 Bertram S/F. Mint cond. 700 hrs. Radar, VHF, Loran, white line recorder, outriggers, fishing chair. Many extras. Must see. 201-933-8076 After 6PM. 516-725-1446 Wknds.

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1980 SEA CRAFT 23 Sceptre cuddy. Last boat built by original SeaCraft. Purchased late 1981. Twin 225 hp Mercurys, SS props, Nelco Loran, Mecca paper & digital recorder. Standard Horizon, VHF, Ritchie compass, Pompanette fighting chair, T/T, Morse controls, hyd. steering, 5 rod holders, outriggers. Full gauges. New Bimini top, plus new canvas top, side curtains, drop curtains. Also new mooring cover from windshield to motors. Teak rod racks. Less than 200 hrs. on motors. Everything like new. Boat in water; will Demo. $25,000. 516-536-2382.

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24' 1980 WELLCRAFT 248 Sportsman, 260 I/O w/'83 Evin. 15 hp FWC. Camper canvas, FM, ST, cas., Loran, Fish f, odom, fume deti, S. temp. DF, 2 batts, 2 bilge, EZ Load tand tr. & more. Excl. cond. 20K. Of: 315-732-5109. Home: 315-853-8501.

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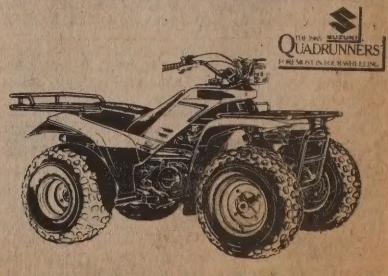

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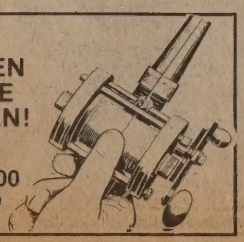

Buckley said that one representitive catch from Ed Czelatka's Sea Boots posted 200 fish in the 1½ pound range. Among Buckleys best of the week was Charles Bascilli's 2½ and one 3.5 taken by anonymous.

Brennan took a peek at the Gardiner's flatties on Sunday with a few drifts to end the day and came up with a 3.6 for Marilyn Foehrenbach of Central Islip.

Larry Ciccotto should be sailing the **Prime Time III** out of Orient this weekend after inspections are completed this week. Clark Bellows will be at the helm on weekdays as he was last season.

Bob Ceglowski's **Captain Bob** has been working the flatties toward the pipeline lately and had some fine results late on the flood tide Sunday with 150 fish in the 1-3 pound class. The average of the fish in the area has dropped to around 1¼ with the outside at 2 pounds, but there are a few snowshoes still around. Thursday's 4½ pounder, weighed on registered scales, was by far the biggest flounder of the season on the North Fork. Ceglowski has had steady picks on most days and expects action to pick up when he has more outgoing water to work with.

Freshwater REPORT
with Tom Schlichter

Fast action with trout and panfish pace this week's report. Warm temperatures also got the catfish on the move with some exceptional catches recorded from Peconic River and Forge Pond. Catches of bass and pickerel remained steady.

Speaking from **Beckmann's Bait and Tackle** in **Lynbrook**, Charlie Beckman relayed word that local kids have been doing quite well with panfish and small bass at Grant Park. Howard Schoen of Hewlett got the best of a nice pair of trout Saturday morning. He used a Royal Coachman fly to coax a 16" rainbow and a Dark Edison Streamer to take a 17½" brookie from the Nissequogue River.

Mike Nicoletti of **Causeway Bait and Tackle** termed the action with crappies, bass, and pickerel on the Twin Lakes "exceptional" this week. Craig Rodgers used killies to catch and release pickerel of 23" and 25". Likewise, Steve Barey used killies to take 6 bass and 5 pickerel from the south lake. John Kearney and Scott Carson teamed up to catch a 4 lb. bass and 10 pickerel to 2¼ lbs. while Lee W. used a Mepps spinner to nail a 4 lb. bigmouth.

Over at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, Mike Andreani said that he had a slow week as far as freshwater reports are concerned. He did, however, hear that some pickerel were being fooled with spinners in Belmont Lake.

Fred Lagger of **Edelman's Sport Shop** in **Farmingdale** said that he sampled the trout fishing in the fly fishing only section of Carmen's River last Monday taking 8 small trout on blue wing devil digs. On Saturday, George Turner used a black Rooster Tail lure to catch two trout in the tidal section of the Nissequogue River. Fred also mentioned that Lower Yaphank Lake has been giving up some nice sunnies. Use worms suspended from a bobber.

Very good fishing early in the week and excellent on Sunday is the way that Gil Bergen described this week's trout fishing inside Connetquot River State Park. Among the best catches was a 6½ lb. brown trout taken by a Dr. Carter on a small gray nymph and 4x tippet. Bob Pringali took a 3 lb. rainbow from the Mill Tail section.

A call to **J & R Sportshop** of **Oakdale**, confirmed the fine fishing within the park. Dave Canale reported that Frank Cannese of West Islip took three brookies to 2 lbs. 5 ozs. Over at West Lake, Rick Kenehan caught and released three bass ranging 2-5 lbs. and two 12" rainbow trout. Dave also passed on word that fishing for small trout in Sayville's Mill Pond and at Bubbles Falls has been good.

Across the Island, in Caleb Smith State Park, Mike Venuti described this week as average with a good mixture of trout available. No record breakers though.

At **J & J Bait and Tackle Shop** of **Patchogue**, John was happy to inform us that the local lakes had been restocked with trout. Bass and pickerel fishing has been consistent in local lakes. Gene Newman and Danny Herring fished Tuthills Creek Sunday taking a mixed bag of pickerel, brown trout, white perch, and largemouth bass. How's that for variety?

Fishing was a little slow on Southaven Park's Hard's Pond Sunday. The rest of the week was fair with an 18" rainbow taken Friday by Patrick D'Andrea the most outstanding catch.

From the **Fisherman's Deli** in **Riverhead** where Nita Devlin was holding down the fort, came word of Charlie and Eddie Strickland who together with Huddie Lewis bailed 150 catfish from Forge Pond on Sunday. The three used night crawler baits. Fishing for bass and pickerel was on the slow side the past few days.

Just as I was finishing up, Bill McGivney from the Long Island Bass Masters fishing club called to announce that Alicia Moldashel took first place in the club's casting tournament held on the shores of Lake Ronkonkoma. Bill Mac also mentioned that one club member took two largemouth bass on Sunday. Fishing on the big lake has been slow of late.

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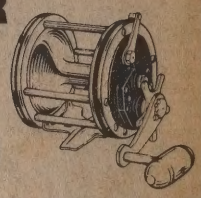

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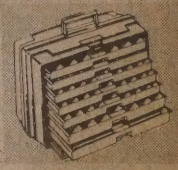

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